

## Club Card benefits spread worldwide

JAMIE WURDINGER  
Public Affairs Specialist

Service members and their families aboard the Station are enjoying the benefits of a recently developed Marine Corps Community Services club card program. MCCS facilities worldwide are offering discounts to cardholders of a Bank One MasterCard made specifically for service members.

Club member perks range from free meals at the club to discounted recreation. While membership benefits vary worldwide, people can present their Club Cards at any Marine Corps base to receive generous discounts at MCCS facilities there.

Station club members, along with one guest, receive free birthday, anniversary and wedding dinners worth up to \$40 each at Club Iwakuni or 25-percent off of the table's check during the month of the occasion, every year. To substitute for the anniversary dinner and spouses' birthday dinner, single Club Card members receive free enlistment, date of hire and commissioning dinners, or 25-percent off of the table's check.

Other promotions include regu-

see CLUB Page 4

## Marines network solutions

PFC LUKAS J. BLOM  
Combat Correspondent

Station and Okinawa based communication units participated in the Capstone 2005 Communications Exercise Dec. 3-14 at the Penny Lake Field here.

Detachments from 7th Communications Battalion and Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18 based out of Okinawa, along with Marines from communication sections within Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, conducted the exercise in preparation for Foal Eagle 2005.

The exercise simulated a field environment away from any major military installation and the set up of a communication link independent of base networks. It was designed to ensure that the equipment used was functional, and that the Marines operating it were fully trained on the equipment.

"We are establishing network connectivity to the outside world via tactical equipment," said Master Sgt. John M. Nightingale, MWSS-171 communications chief. "We're tying into the base infrastructure, yet staying completely independent of the base communication system."

To accomplish this task, the units had to work together, sharing their knowledge and experience on their respective pieces of equipment in order to create a more secure and effi-



PFC Lukas J. Blom  
Cpl. Sylvester C. Nickerson, field wireman, adjusts his tactical switchboard during the Capstone communication Exercise held at Penny Lake Field Dec. 3.

cient network, said Nightingale.

"The major benefit to working with 7th Comm. Bn. and MWCS-18 is the equipment that they bring to the fight," said Nightingale.

A specialized satellite van was one of the more anticipated pieces of equipment from 7th Comm. Bn. The van is equipped with a Super High Frequency (SHF) system, which provided reliable multichannel capacity satellite communications with an anti-jam capability.

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## INSIDE

A real Christmas story  
Rally provides venue for Marine tradition here Dec. 5.




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www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

## Iwakuni Marines eligible for Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

CL. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

A revision concerning the recipients of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal was approved by President George W. Bush and released in a Marine Administrative Message in November.

The message, MARADMIN 499/04, sets the requirements for awarding Marines the GWOTSM and distinguishes differences between this medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

President Bush approved the establishment of the two medals to recognize the accomplishments of military service

members who have participated in or supported operations in the War on Terror.

To qualify for the GWOTEM, Marines must have participated in an expedition to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This is limited to those who deploy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

To qualify for the GWOTSM, a Marine must meet all of the following requirements: Marines must

be attached to any Marine Corps unit, either inside the continental United States or overseas; serve 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive

days of active-duty service since Sept. 11, 2001; and not be in a training status.

Eligibility begins upon assignment to a Marine's first permanent command subsequent to completing their initial accession and military occupational skill training.

Due to the indefinite nature of terrorism and its global expanse, there is no precise measure or standard of participation or support, directly or indirectly, that qualifies a unit or individual for the award, according to the MARADMIN.

The medal will be positioned after the GWOTEM in precedence and before the Korean Defense Service Medal.

More information on the GWOTEM can be found in MARADMIN 129/04.





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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 [daveyml@iwakuni.usmc.mil](mailto:daveyml@iwakuni.usmc.mil) or [coakleylj@iwakuni.usmc.mil](mailto:coakleylj@iwakuni.usmc.mil).

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## When worst becomes best

LT. STEVE COATES  
*Chaplain's Corner*

Some people are highly regulated when it comes to holiday traditions. The tree must go up the day after Thanksgiving. We have this meal on Christmas Eve. I am the one who sets out these particular decorations – and they go here. At some point, we must watch this movie or go to this restaurant or do this activity.

How do you prepare for the holidays when most of your traditions are not possible? It is difficult enough to be away from family and friends, living in a foreign country, without having to give up all your traditions as well. It seems like a recipe for the worst holiday ever.

Perhaps that is a clue as to how we should prepare. Traditions come and go. We develop them; we drop them. It is the values associated with these traditions that remain constant. We can always uphold those values even if the traditions must be suspended for a time.

My most memorable family Christmas celebration was one that was ruined according to tradition. I was at an age when I had anticipated our family gathering for weeks. Just as we began our long established ritual for that day, my dad received a phone call. One of his good friends had been rushed to the hospital emergency room. In a matter of minutes, Dad was out the door. I would not see him again that day.

Some might be tempted to think that my dad abandoned his family in the midst of their most important family ritual

of the year. The reality was the exact opposite. I never thought my father was calloused for leaving us on Christmas Day. Though our tradition was obliterated, our values were clearly upheld.

On that day, my most memorable Christmas, my dad taught me the importance of human relationships and responding in the hour of need. I have no doubt that if I had been the one rushed to the emergency room, if possible, my dad would have dropped whatever work related task he was doing to come to my side.

Perhaps your traditions have been demolished this 2004 holiday season. Even so, your values can remain crystal clear. Our world stands in need and you have responded to the call. This means separation from family and the sacrifice of time-honored traditions. It might mean standing duty or heading into combat. Regardless, your values can endure.

You can honor those values by planning how you will spend these days. The slate is clean and you choose the traditions this year. Select positive activities and participate in productive social gatherings. Find creative means to communicate with all kinds of acquaintances. It might be a great encouragement to them as well as to you.

What will not work in making this season better? Abandoning your values, trying not to think about it, or seeking distractions through lazy entertainments will only make matters worse. In contrast, conducting yourself according to the values that underlie your traditions just might turn your worst holiday into one of the best ever.

## You can walk the walk, can you talk the talk?

PFC DANIEL A. SANABRIA-MORALES  
*Letter to the Editor*

Oorah, my fellow Marines! As a brand-new PFC who arrived less than 3 weeks ago to this, my first duty station of Iwakuni, I felt the need to address an issue that may not be relevant for all, but as Americans and representatives of our nation, it should be touched upon.

The majority of my fellow Marines are quick to sing the praises of our great country, and of all the things they miss. One of the things they miss most is feeling at home, and living in a land where they can go anywhere and be understood by people who speak the same language.

You see, language plays a very important part in how

we perceive this duty station. If we find it an overwhelming challenge to learn about a new culture or tongue, then it's very likely that we'll be counting down the days to our next PCS, or the days left 'till we can go on leave and go home.

But personally, how can I be aching to go home if, not too long ago, I was the foreigner in a distant land, which now I'm proud to call home? When I emigrated to the United States from Colombia, back in 1995, the first challenge was to quickly learn the language, customs, and idiosyncrasies of the American nation. I eventually learned it by immersing myself in the culture. My family reminded me that I should see the positive side of things, be optimistic and give my new homeland a chance. On more than one

see WALK Page 5

## CHATTERBOX

**Question: "If you could spend your Christmas with anyone, who would it be and why?"**



"I want to spend my Christmas with the American Idol Christmas cast because it would be fun to sing on stage with them on Christmas."

Sarah A. Igana  
Virginia Beach, VA



"I want to spend Christmas with anyone special and give presents to everyone."

John Caleb Davis  
Dothan, AL



"I would spend my Christmas with Angelina Jolie because it's Angelina Jolie, who wouldn't?"

Lance Cpl. Matthew S.  
DeWitt  
Bedford, Texas



"Donald Trump because he is probably doing something really fun."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ben  
A. Romo  
Mamouth Lakes, Calif

## Toys for tots – a real Christmas story

GUNNERY SGT. MARK ZEID  
*Combat Correspondent*

Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines; but first, drop your toy in the box. The Station's fourth annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally was held here Dec. 5, with several hundred people in attendance.

According to the rally coordinator, Gunnery Sgt. Anaiz Stinson, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron information assurance manager, motorcyclists from Yamaguchi, Hiroshima, Okayama and Shikoku came to join the event. Highlights of the day were a short ride around the Station, and a barbecue party. Nearly 70 motorcycles and more than 125 Japanese nationals joined approximately two hundred Marines to make the event a success.

"The whole idea of the rally is to help foster better relations between us and

the Japanese community," stated Stinson.

"Considering the weather, we had a really good rally," commented Jay Stovall, Single Marine Program coordinator. The day was rainy and cold, and only rarely did the sun come out.

Stovall was quick to point out the fact that Marines make the Toys For Tots program a success.

"My personal goal is to get as many Marines and Sailors as possible involved," said Stovall. "When they are helping other people, they work better



Gunnery Sgt. Mark Zeid

**Japanese bikers and American service members gather in front of nearly 70 bikes during the Station's fourth annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally.**

and feel better about themselves."

Stovall encouraged Marines to join the program by standing at the exchange to thank people for donating toys, helping to wrap the donated gifts and helping to deliver toys to orphanages.

Sgt. Shane S. Bailey, who has participated in the program for four years, is the coordinator of Toys For Tots this year.

"It's a load of fun for me," said Bailey. "It's stressful and time consuming, but it's worth it when we go to the orphanages."

The goal for this year is to gather enough toys for 250 to 300 children, and to visit at least five orphanages, added Bailey.

"It's definitely worth it when you get to see the look on little kids' faces," he said. "That's the best part."

Toys For Tots came to Japan in 1959. The Single Marine Program officially took over the program in 1998. Last year Toys for Tots collected more than 800 toys, and distributed them to 250 children locally.

For more information, call 253-4656.

## Students honor former teacher with garden

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE Cpl. LYDIA DAVEY  
*Combat Correspondent*

Second grade students at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School planted a flower garden here Dec. 10, in honor of their former teacher, Arlene Berg.

The class decided to plant the garden after Berg was diagnosed with a serious illness, and forced to return to the United States for treatment earlier this year.

"We thought of things we could do to make [Mrs. Berg] feel better, and came up with the idea for the garden," said Tamra Barker, the school's current second grade teacher. "The class was very excited."

The students enlisted the help of the Seabees and Master Labor Contract (MLC) workers to prepare the



**M.C. Perry second grader Trevor Vann, 7, digs a hole in the earth for a tulip bulb as Jordan Spraggins, 7, looks on Dec. 10.**



**Fifty tulip bulbs wait to be planted by the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School second grade class in honor of their former teacher.**

ground for 50 tulip bulbs, and to create a small white picket fence and a sign that reads, "Mrs. Berg's Garden."

"I think she'll like the sign and the tulips," said seven-year-old Trevor Vann. "I want Mrs. Berg to feel better, and I want to make her happy. If she was here, she would love to have her own garden."

Each student planted one tulip bulb in the freshly turned earth and assisted the MLC workers in deciding the location of the garden's sign.

Working in a garden is nothing new to the students, they said.

"Last year when we were studying Indians, I planted a little plant in a bag that had a fish in it," said Caroline Durfee, 8. "I hope the garden will make Mrs. Berg happy."

Berg taught at the school for two years, and was highly respected by faculty and students alike, said Vice Principal John Stroup.

"To Mrs. Berg, teaching is not just a profession – it's a vocation," said Stroup. "She's very dedicated and very hardworking. She's a leader and a mentor, and everything you could ask for in a teacher."

According to Stroup, Berg has been teaching at Department of Defense schools for more than 30 years.

"She's a real veteran," said Stroup.

Mrs. Berg's garden is located in front of the M. C. Perry Elementary School's office.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SPOUSES TO TEACHERS PROGRAM

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support has developed a new pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers. A web site is available to provide information for spouses interested in a career in public education ([www.SpousesToTeachers.org](http://www.SpousesToTeachers.org)).

### HOUSING CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

Judging will take place on Monday evening. Individual awards will be presented to the winner of the Northside and Monzen townhouse areas. All ten Midrises will be judged together. Individuals who would like to be considered for their respective housing area award should submit their names, addresses and housing areas assigned to the Family Housing Office no later than today. Call Ron Nash, Family Housing Office at 253-5541 for more information.

### COMMISSARY HOURS

Hours of operation for the week of Christmas are as follows:

- Monday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 25 Closed
- Dec. 26 Closed

# Band Muziki shakes things up

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

Pulsating rhythms vibrate the walls as Band Muziki leads the crowd in energy driven dance moves. Enthusiasm and a wide range in vocals lead these talented musicians into a night of "gettin jiggy with it."

Band Muziki, aboard Station since Dec. 2, is here to provide up beat tunes in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom until Jan. 2.

The Filipino band, together for two years, is composed of artists with performance in their blood.

Tina D. Reyes, one of two female vocalists, was brought up in a family of musical talent; her father



Aga Lapido, keyboardist, plays a wide variety of music for Band Muziki. He, along with the other members of the band, performs every song by memory.

plays the saxophone, her mother is a singer and her sister plays the guitar.

Working his moves beside Reyes is Rocky A. Azucena, the lone male vocalist. He, along with his older sister, gather inspiration from none other than the "king of pop" himself - Michael Jackson.

"I was originally a dancer," said Azucena. "My sister was a singer and she inspired me to start singing and so did Michael Jackson - especially Michael Jackson."

To most fans, band life appears to be filled with fun times and parties that last all night long. With Muziki, that is not the case. In order to maintain their ability to perform the current top 40 songs, they practice daily. They are regularly tasked with learning as many as three songs per day. Their days consist of practicing individually, then getting together to work it with the band. Their long hours of practice are reflected in every song they perform.

"We work everyday; it's just part of the job," said Michelle Dungog, vocalist.

The members of Band Muziki said performing is their one true love. That love has taken them as far as Hong Kong and throughout Japan.

In their travels, the members of Band Muziki have found Iwakuni to be a place they feel at home.

"We know that we are in Japan, but when we first got here it felt like we were in the States because of all of the Americans everywhere," said Reyes. "We really enjoy it here and hope to extend our stay."

As much as the band enjoys Iwakuni, service members here enjoy them.

"I think that they are off the chain. They come here and play music that everybody likes," said Lance Cpl. Tyrone L. Ross, heavy equipment mechanic, Combat Service Support Detachment 36.



Michelle Dungog performs at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom with a high range of vocals that everyone can enjoy. She said her favorite part of performing is dancing to the songs the band plays.

"I would love to see them stay out here longer. But if they can't, I want to see them come back sometime soon. They're hot!"

## CLUB from Page 1

lar discounts on most meals in their club dining room and admission to two annual members only events.

These benefits are in addition to the 12 monthly MCCS Iwakuni coupons provided to Club Card members. Some coupons offered this year were for free rounds of golf, discount massages, \$15.95 off the Saturday Night Grand Buffet, free games of bowling, Food Court discounts and free tire rotation - and there is a wildcard coupon that can be used at any MCCS facility.

The Club Card's monthly club membership dues are based on pay grade and duty status, and go directly to support the cardholder's club (e.g., the Landing Zone). Dues range from \$5 to \$25, and are identical throughout the Marine Corps. However, discounts offered for MCCS services throughout the year can offset and surpass these dues.

"If you take advantage of the free

birthday and anniversary dinners at Club Iwakuni, you easily get your money back," said Station resident Jessica Buckley. She and her husband, Gunnery Sgt. Bradley Buckley, pay \$10 per month for membership. "The free meals for my birthday, my husband's birthday and our anniversary are worth \$40 each, reimbursing us \$120. Every additional meal at the club [throughout the year] is money saved for us, and the coupons save us even more. The program actually puts money back into our pocket."

In addition to MCCS discounts, service members can earn frequent flyer miles, free cash rewards and more, with every purchase made with their Bank One MasterCard. The MasterCards for service members feature a low variable annual percentage rate (APR) of 9.99 and no annual fee. While Bank One determines the cardholder's credit limit, it offers service members and their families three types of credit cards to choose from: TravelPlus, Free Cash, and Low Intro-

ductory Rate MasterCards.

Finance charges are waived when service members are engaged in a military campaign. Cardholders can also bypass the cost of mailing their payments to Bank One by paying their bill at their club cash cage. In addition, service members who were unable to take advantage of their free anniversary and birthday meals during deployment can still receive those benefits months later when they return.

Club Card members may also receive the MCCS discounts without using the credit feature of their Club Card.

"I rarely use my credit card," said P.K. Smith, Marine Lounge manager. "However, every month I use the \$1 Wildcard coupon and \$5-off MCX Purchase coupon that I get for being a member."

Here at MCAS Iwakuni, Club Cards are beneficial to military personnel regardless of their branch of service. Navy Club Cards are available, and Club Cards for all branches of the U.S.

Military are honored here.

Service members who do not qualify for a Bank One MasterCard will be issued a Bank One Proprietary Card that has a credit limit of less than \$500 and may only be used at the member's respective club. Service members here who wish to receive discounts and coupons without getting a credit card can purchase an MCCS Iwakuni Privilege Card. However, the Privilege Card is not transferable from base to base. In addition, both the Proprietary Card and Privilege Card carry the same monthly membership dues as the MasterCard, and offer no point reward system.

Applications for Bank One MasterCards are available at the club cash cage and online at [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com). MCCS Privilege Cards applications are available at the club cash cage. For more information, call Club Iwakuni at 253-5416. Credit card benefit packages, services, and fees are administered by Bank One.

# Thrift Store provides affordable alternatives

LANCE CPT. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Santa's toy shop isn't the only place packed with pleasant surprises this season; the Thrift Store here is filled with gently used items that are available for purchase at a minimal cost.

At \$4 a bag, Station residents can shop to their hearts content for items ranging from books to clothes to practical and decorative household items.

The store also boasts a toy room, a toddlers' clothing room and a military clothing section with an assortment of Navy and Marine Corps uniforms.

"Uniform items and accessories are free to active duty service members," said Beverlee Grey, Thrift Store manager. "It's a great resource that's not utilized enough."

The shelves are stocked with goods provided mainly by service members, who donate items prior to their permanent change of station moves.

"A lot of what I find here is new or next to new," said Kim Ealy, frequent Thrift Store shopper and mother of four. "Clothes are a big thing - if something gets ripped, it doesn't matter; I just go to the Thrift Store and fill up a bag."

However, busy moms aren't the only ones to frequent the store.

Shoppers Ruth Coleman, 17, and Cathrine Oleas, 15, often find themselves sorting through displays.



High school students Ruth Coleman, 17, (left) and Cathrine Oleas, 15, sort through clothes at the Thrift Store here Dec. 1.

"I find a lot of interesting stuff that can be cute with a little help," said Coleman, a teen who sports an Ashlee Simpson haircut and stylish clothes.

Affordable prices aren't the only things the store does well; they also recycle items back to the community.

The Thrift Store recently provided costumes for a Matthew C. Perry High School play, and in October, donated items to the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Haunted House. They regularly collect camping gear for the Boy Scouts, and are willing to support nearly any community

event, said Grey. "We'd like to keep the store open for longer hours and more days each week, but in order to do that, we need additional volunteers to commit their time," said Grey.

The volunteers who run the Thrift Store are also available to pick up large donation items.

"We encourage people to call us and arrange a time for the pickup of bigger items," said Grey.

A large donation box sits outside of the store, ready to receive smaller items any time of the week.

For information on volunteering, or to schedule the pickup of any large donated item, call the Thrift Store at 253-4721.

## NETWORK from Page 1

"With this satellite equipment we can communicate to commands all over the world in real time," said Nightingale. "It enables units to establish telephone and data network connectivity with one another as if they were collocated. Units separated by hundreds or even thousands of miles are now capable of exchanging information."

Before systems like this were available, Marines in the field used High Frequency (HF) radio communications equipment coupled with the Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN).

"AUTODIN has supported the DoD's communications needs for thirty years," according to the Federation of American Scientists Web site. "This mainframe technology is manpower intensive and cannot be easily upgraded to support new information requirements. Its inability to provide the war fighter a wide range of information services, not just messaging, and its high cost of operations and maintenance requires the replacement of AUTODIN."

With current systems being utilized in the exercise and all over the world, the information flow is much more expedient.

"This system is just awesome," said Nightingale. "It allows commanders to exchange and receive information in real

time. The efficiency comes through command and control benefits. Commanders are now receiving information at a cyclic rate, which enables them to make decisions much faster than before. Information is the key to success on the battlefield."

Even with all this high-speed technology available to the Marines, their camp was still subject to Mother Nature.

"We came in one morning and three or four of the tents had been blown down over night," said Lance Cpl. Joshua S. McElroy, MWSS-171 tactical network system specialist. "All the cammie-netting was knocked down with it too. It looked like a massive snake when we drove up. We had everything all squared away pretty quick, and we were back on schedule."

Marines from Okinawa shipped out to Camp Foster, Dec. 13 after getting a chance to see how the equipment they were educated on actually performs in the field.

"Its been good for me personally," said Lance Cpl. Travis R. Wilson, 7th Comm. Bn. satellite communications operator. "I've been able to learn more about my (Military Occupational Specialty). Before this, I had never even touched my equipment. We were able to see how everything comes together and works."

## WALK from Page 2

occasion, the kids in my Junior High who knew that I knew no English had fun at my expense. But the more of their language I understood, the more I got into verbal arguments with them. That was back then...

Keeping those things fresh in mind makes me see this duty station, Iwakuni, as a reminder. A reminder of home. A new home, under a new culture that may seem intimidating at first. But once again, I repeat: language plays a big part in making Japan feel like home. So then, why is it that I see very few Marines take the initiative to learn Japanese? Or take advantage of the free Basic Japanese classes offered by the community?

Japanese locals are very responsive and friendly when you greet them in their own language. Sadly, many times in the United States we expect everyone to speak our language, and fail to respond kindly to effort.

And to those of us Marines and Sailors who are from different parts of the world, do you still

remember what it was like to learn English? Here's an example: If your duty station was back in the United States, yet you spoke no English, would you want to spend one, two or more years there without making an effort to learn English? Even more, would you want to settle with living on base, where most people speak your language, and lose the chance to see the wonderful things America has to offer out there - outside those gates?

I don't know if this letter will be published, but I felt the need to express these thoughts to someone who listens. If we represent the greatest nation and the most powerful country in the world, why not show it by good works here in Iwakuni? If I were back in Colombia and heard an American Marine or Sailor greet me with a "Buenos Dias" (Good Morning), I'd respect the individual for his knowledge and his demeanor. Please, remind our fellow Marines that we are ambassadors of America everywhere we go.





LEFT: A Japanese swimmer takes a big breath before going under the water again to continue his free style stroke during the competition. RIGHT: Stewart T. Upton prepares to go back under the water during the 100 meter breast stroke. Upton was one of the few Americans to participate in the JMSDF sponsored competition.



# Japanese sink Marines during swim competition

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**CH. DAVE BONI**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces held a swimming competition Dec. 7 at the JMSDF Gymnasium.

The friendly competition was open to Station personnel who were willing to try out their skills against their Japanese counterparts. After the opening ceremonies, the difficult competition began.

"We got shut out," said Brandey Catledge, a Marine Corps Swim instructor and 100-meter free style and 500-meter breaststroke relay participant. "We didn't score a single point during the entire competition."

The meet began with a 50-meter free style for contestants over 40-years-old. The 100-meter free style followed along with the troubles for

team MCAS. With Catledge coming in near the middle of the pack, it was up to Robert Wilson to get the team on the scoreboard first.

"My event was the timed race. Before we got on the blocks they gave us an envelope with a time written inside. We had to swim 50-meters in that time and were deducted points for times over or under the allotted time. I didn't really understand the rules on that one and I thought you had to swim the farthest in your time so I swam as fast as I could," said Wilson, who also competed in the 500-meter breast-stroke relay.

The end result of Wilson's misunderstanding was a last place finish and a standing ovation from the crowd.

"I wish I understood the rules a bit better, but it was a lot of fun anyway," he said.

Fun was the theme for the day, as a rowdy crowd cheered on swimmers participating in

events the Marines had never heard of.

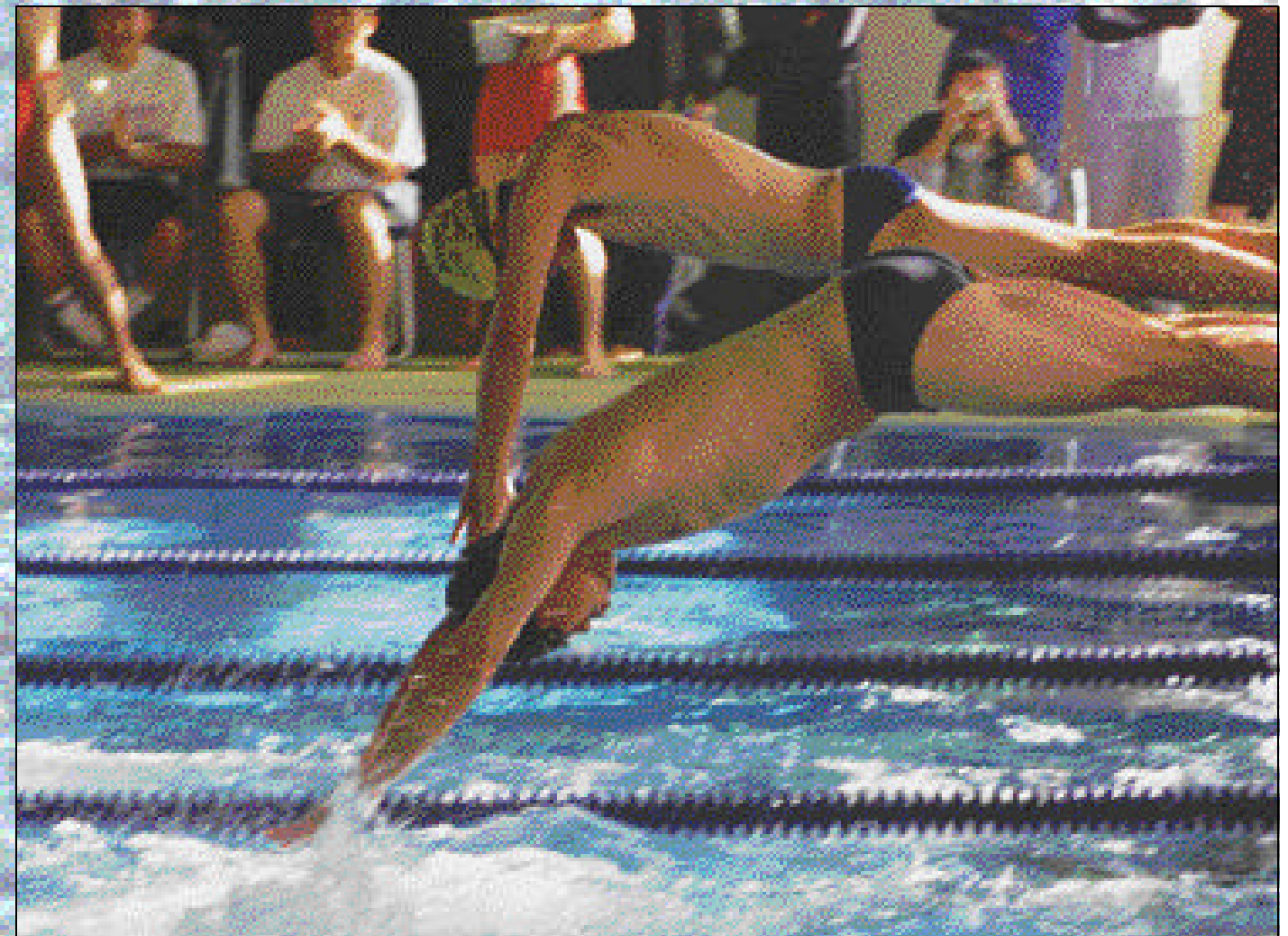
"The centipede race was a new one for me," said Wilson. "That's when you have a team of four and you must swim together like a centipede the length of the pool."

Overall, the competition consisted of 13 events with first, second and third place finishers receiving prizes. Team MCAS didn't get on the scoreboard, but showed good sportsmanship to their hosts.

"We had a lot of fun and the crowd was great. They were so excited and I think they cheered loudest for us," said Catledge.

The Japanese swimmers also enjoyed having their counterparts to compete against.

"The Americans were very impressive swimmers," said Toshiyuki Takaji, JMSDF swim meet competitor. "They were great to compete against and I hope we will have more events like this one in the future."



ABOVE: Divers take off during the team relay race at the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces swimming competition Dec. 7. Station Marines competed against JMSDF teams at the JMSDF Gym. Those who placed in the top three during their events received prizes. LEFT: One of the scantily clad JMSDF cheerleaders entertains the crowd with wild dances while cheering for his fellow service members. FAR LEFT: A popular event at the JMSDF swimming competition was the centipede race where four members of a team swam in unison.





# Navajo Marine serves with pride

LANCE CH. CRISTIN K. BARTTER  
Combat Correspondent

Chaco Canyon, at one time a major cultural center for ancient Indian tribes, is now a hot and dusty little divot on the face of New Mexico. It was here, many years ago, that an old Navajo man began to go blind. His eyes, once black as night, began to turn an unusual cast of blue.

The old Indian man soon became known as "Blueeyes," and when he was gone, the name stayed. Today, a Navajo family in the Chaco Canyon region carries the moniker.

Sgt. Sinclair Blueeyes, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation hydraulics technician, is part of that family.

Blueeyes, along with his two sisters and three brothers, was raised in a one-room home in the Chaco Canyon area. His first 10 years were spent without running water or electricity, and with little knowledge of the world beyond the canyon region.

Yet, even as a child, Blueeyes knew he would someday join the military. Upon graduating from high school, he joined the Army. When his contract was up, Blueeyes chose not to reenlist, and separated from the Army after three years.

Blueeyes said he missed the discipline and



Lance Cpl. Cristin K. Bartter

**Sgt. Sinclair Blueeyes, a full-blooded Navajo, works on a tire as an aviation hydraulics technician for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12.**

man with strong features and black eyes.

Although Navajo and Marine Corps traditions are significantly different, Blueeyes said he enjoys the thought of being a part of two families, and knowing the cultures of both.

Much of the Navajo culture is immortalized orally through the time-honored tradition of story telling. The stories focus on the ancient history of mankind, and include references to Mother Earth, a variety of animals, and the legends of special people who faced tremendous trials and adventures.

"Growing up, our Native American beliefs were told

through stories similar to Looney Tunes," said Blueeyes. "You have certain characters like the coyote with his yellow eyes. Each character carries a significance to my Native American heritage and beliefs."

Although Blueeyes relishes his heritage, he admits that he is mostly Marine.

"When I go back home they have to teach me how to be Navajo again," he said with a smile. "I kind of find it fun."

Blueeyes enjoys visiting his home and sharing his stories and adventures with teens and children.

"I like being able to inform the younger generation of my experiences in the Marine Corps. A majority of them don't really know who they want to grow up to be," said Blueeyes. "I am here to give them another option: join the Marines!"

As a Navajo in the Marine Corps, Blueeyes said his background as a Native American has made him more determined to succeed in the Corps.

"As I grew up, I was taught a lot of traditional values," he said. "I've found many of those same values in the Marine Corps, but I've also seen some Marines set bad examples. Because of that, I'm more determined to stay in [the Marine Corps], succeed and make a difference."

camaraderie offered by the military lifestyle. He considered rejoining the Army, but when he heard about the Marine Corps, he knew it was for him.

"My father always encouraged me to try bigger and better things," said Blueeyes, a medium-built

## Navajo courage in the military

- During World War I, thousands of Navajo men and women volunteered their services to the war efforts. They fought in France, Germany, and Italy and received numerous awards and decorations for outstanding duty; many were cited for bravery under fire.
- It is estimated that more than 3,600 young Navajo men and women joined the armed forces during World War II. Navajos were an integral part of the war effort.
- During World War II, Navajo code talkers used a special code based on the Navajo language to transmit messages,

making it futile for the Japanese enemy to decipher American battle messages about the time and place of attack. Code talkers are credited with saving thousands of lives and shortening the war by at least two years.

- Approximately 3,000 Navajos volunteered their services during the Vietnam war. They fought in battles on the shores of Danang, Hue, and in many other cities.

- Army Sgt. Lee D. Todacheene became the first Navajo killed in Iraq when mortar fire hit his guard post in Balad, April 5, 2004.

## OUT THE GATE

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

### Tenchosai Festival

This festival is scheduled at the Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima Island Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bugaku, a court dance and music, will be performed after a ceremony. It will not be cancelled in case of rain. An admission is required in order to enter the shrine. Call 0829-44-2020 for more details.

### Christmas Flower Display

There is a display of Christmas flower art at the Hiroshima Botanical Garden now through Dec. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The garden is open until 9 p.m. only on Saturday, and it is closed on Friday. For details, call 082-922-3600.

### Tokasai Festival

A display of candles installed inside bamboo tubes will be held at the Kanmuriyama Sougou Park, Hikari City Thursday, 6-8:30 p.m. Admission is free. It will be cancelled in case of rain. For more information, call 0833-74-3311.

### Band Concert

A concert of variety types of music, played by eight local bands, will take a place at Waki Town Cultural Hall, Saturday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The admission is free.

### "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

**Mini Cooper Rover**, 1995, CD, A/C, heat, leather seats, JCI until June 2006, \$3,000. Call SSgt. Cooper at 253-6590 dwh or 253-2767 awb.

**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 awb.

**Toyota Hilux Surf**, 1988, full size, 4 cylinder, 201,800km, grey, power everything, runs perfect, well maintained, cold A/C, brand new battery and power steering pulley, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$1,100

obo. Call Sgt. Quinn at 253-6901 or 253-3911 dwh, or 38-2021 awb or 090-2804-0117.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc., queen size mattress** with box spring, \$50 obo. Call Mirei at 253-2199.

### JOB OPENINGS

**WIC (243-9426)**  
A part time position as a nurse/nutritionist is open at the WIC Overseas Program in Iwakuni. Position requires a BS in Nursing, Nutrition, Dietetics or Home Economics, and experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition. E-mail your resume, cover letter and copy of your driver's license to

williamsd@nhyoko.med.navy.mil or fax it at 243-2614 attn: Denise Williams.

### CHRO (253-6828)

**MCCS:**  
-Supervisory Education Services Specialist, world wide  
**Facilities:**  
-Interdisciplinary Engineer, world wide  
-Architect, world wide  
**Clinic:**  
-Occupational Health Nurse, world wide  
**Commissary:**  
-Teller, Iwakuni wide  
-Store Worker NTE 1 Year (Student Temporary Employment Program), full or part-time student

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

**MCCS Job Listing:**  
-Material Handler, Warehouse, civilian only, NA-05

-Store Worker, Main Complex, civilian only, NA-02

-Auto Hobby Shop Supervisor, Auto Hobby Shop, NF-03

-Supply Technician, Bachelor Housing, civilian only, NF-02

-Food Court Operations Assistant, Food Court, all sources, NF-02

-Public Relations Specialist, Marketing, civilian only, NF-03

-Graphic Artist, Marketing, all sources, NF-02

-Recreation Assistant, Athletics, NF-02  
-Public Relations Assistant, Marketing, NF-01

**Continuously Open Jobs**

### Announcements (FT, PT, FLX)

### MCCS Executive Administration Office

**Loss And Prevention:**  
-Security Guard (Loss And Prevention Agent), NF-01

### Business Operations Division

**Retail Branch:**  
-Laborer, NA-01

-Sales Clerk, NF-01  
-Store Worker, NA-02  
-Food Service Worker (Auto Mini Mart), NA-02

### Food & Hospitality:

-ID Checker, NF-01  
-Waiter/Waitress, NA-03  
-Food Service Worker, NA-02

**Services Branch:**  
-Car Rental/Service Station Attendant, NF-01

-Car/Washer/Laborer, NA-01  
-Recreation Attendant, NF-01

**Marine And Family Service Division**

**Library Branch:**  
-Library Technician, NF-02

-Library Aid, NF-01  
**Child Development Center/School Age Care Branch:**

-Program Assistant, CC-I  
-Program Assistant, CC-II

-Operations Assistant, NF-02

**Youth/Teen Center Branch:**

-Recreation Attendant, NF-01  
-Operations Assistant, NF-02

### Semper Fit Division

**Athletics Branch:**  
-Recreation Attendant, NF-01

-Lifeguard, NF-01  
**SMP, Sakura Theater Branch:**

-Recreation Attendant, NF-01  
-Food Service Worker, NA-02

**Health Promotions Branch:**  
-Recreation Attendant, NF-01

Go to www.mccsiwakuni.com for a complete job listing.

# SAKURA THEATER



### THE GRUDGE

The Grudge is the curse of one who dies in the grip of a powerful rage. Those who encounter this murderous supernatural curse die and a new one is born, passed from victim to victim in an endless, growing chain of horror. (96 minutes)



### ALFIE

A womanizing British playboy in New York City finds that there are serious consequences to his carefree lifestyle. (100 minutes)



### FIRST DAUGHTER

When Samantha Mackenzie, the 18-year-old daughter of the president of the United States, demands that she be allowed to go to college without having to be followed by a fleet of secret service agents, her dad agrees while actually assigning a young Secret Service agent to follow her around on campus disguised as a student. (105 minutes)

### FRIDAY

7 p.m. The Grudge (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Alfie (R)

### SATURDAY

1 p.m. First Daughter (PG)  
4 p.m. Raise Your Voice (PG)  
7 p.m. The Grudge (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Team America: World Police (R)

### SUNDAY

4 p.m. Surviving Christmas (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Alfie (R)

### MONDAY

1 p.m. Shark Tale (PG)  
7 p.m. Taxi (PG-13)

### TUESDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

1 p.m. SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (PG)  
7 p.m. Alfie (R)

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. National Treasure (PG)

**MCCS**

## MOVIE SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Shrek 2 (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. America's Sweethearts (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Eternal Sunshine Of Spotless Minds (R)  
2 a.m. Eurotrip (R)

**SAURDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Out Cold (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Barbershop 2 (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Fargo (R)  
2 a.m. Art Of War (R)

**SUNDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Black Cauldron (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Nutty Professor 2 (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Punisher (R)  
2 a.m. The Girl Next Door (R)

**MONDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Extreme Days (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Muppet Christmas Carol (PG)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Monster (R)  
2 a.m. Con Air (R)

**TUESDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Finding Nemo (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Spiderman 2 (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Secret Window (PG)  
2 a.m. Proof Of Life (R)

**WEDNESDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Peter Pan (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. 8 Crazy Nights (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Starsky And Hutch (PG-13)  
2 a.m. Veronica Guerin (R)

**THURSDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. The Grinch (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Town And Country (R)  
2 a.m. Tears Of The Sun (R)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

**Test Schedule**  
**Tuesdays/Fridays** - CLEP, DSST  
**Wednesday -SAT**  
**Thursday -ACT**  
**January 13 -EDPT**  
**January 26 -DLPT**  
**January 27 -ASVAB**  
**January 31 -DLAB**  
 For more information call 253-3855.

## HEALTHCARE

**Stress Management For The Holidays**  
 Tuesday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.  
 Call 253-4526 for details.

## MCCS

**CRMC Classes (253-6439)**  
 ■ **Teaching English Tips:** Tuesday, 1-2:30 p.m.  
 ■ **Hello U.S.A.:** Every

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 For foreign-born spouses.

### Club Iwakuni

■ **Christmas Day Meals To Go:** Purchase a 12-14 pound whole roasted turkey or complete turkey meals for your party. Orders must be placed before Wednesday, 12 p.m. and paid for prior to pickup. Call 253-3382 or 253-5416 for details.

### MCX (253-5641)

■ **Santa:** Children can visit Santa at the MCX at the following hours:  
 ☺ Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 ☺ Sunday, noon to 3 p.m.  
 ☺ Dec. 24, noon to 4 p.m.  
 ☺ Dec. 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### MCFTB (253-3754)

■ **L.I.N.K.S. Session:** Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Yujo Hall.

### Single Marine Program (253-3585)

■ **Toys For Tots Wrapping Party:** Today, 6 p.m. Help us wrap all of the toys to be delivered to different orphanages. Free soda and snacks are provided.

■ **Toys For Tots Orphanage Visit:** Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. Marines and Sailors are encouraged to join this great trip as we deliver gifts to children at five orphanages.

■ **Chicago Honey Bear Dancers Meet & Greet:** Tuesday, 4-6 p.m.  
 ■ **Pizza Night:** Tuesday, 6 p.m. Free pizza, drinks and game.

### Youth & Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **Monthly Birthday Party:** Saturday, 3-5 p.m.  
 ■ **Passport To Manhood Meeting:** Sunday, 3-5 p.m. Males ages 13-18 are invited to the Teen Center for free food and an afternoon of fun.  
 ■ **Hiroshima Shopping Trip:** Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Marine Readers Are Leaders

Marine Readers are Leaders for the month of November are Staff Sgt. Hayden Vesprey (MALS-12) and Gunnery Sgt. Michael Allen (MAG-12). Teen Readers are Leaders winners for November are Martha Granderson (7th grade, home

schooled) and Joshua Maddox (8th grade).

### School Age Care Day Camp

Monday through Thursday and Dec. 27-30. Reservations are being taken for the upcoming winter school break. Let the School Age Center know one week in advance if your child will be attending. The center is closed Dec. 24 and 31. Call 253-4769 for more information.

### Chicago Honey Bears Dancers (253-3727)

☺ Sunday, 1-3 p.m. visit MCCS facilities  
 ☺ Sunday, 7:30-8:30 p.m. perform at the Landing Zone  
 ☺ Monday, visit units throughout the day  
 ☺ Monday, 7:30-8:30 p.m. perform at the Staff NCO Club  
 ☺ Tuesday, visit units throughout the day  
 ☺ Tuesday, 4-6 p.m. visit the Hornet's Nest  
 ☺ Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 perform at the Officers' Club  
 ☺ Wednesday, dancers lead the Jingle Bell Jog kicking off at 11 a.m.

### Santa's Sleigh

Santa visits the Monzen and Northside housing Thursday, 4-5:30 p.m. For further details, call 253-3727.

### Santa's Workshop At Fire Station #1

Santa's helpers are here for you if you need assistance assembling toys for Christmas. Call Santa's Elves and they will as-

sist with your Christmas gift assembly. Call 253-3290 or 253-6827 for further information.

## COMMUNITY

### 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 SA service designed for anonymous callers to give information that would assist the Provost Marshal's Office in solving and preventing crime.

### Iwakuni Toastmasters

Toastmasters (TM) International provides an excellent opportunity to learn and practice proper public speaking and invaluable leadership skills. The TM experience also looks very good on your resume. The class meets every 2nd Thursday evening and 4th Friday at lunch. Japanese with intermediate or better English skills are welcome. Call Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Cristin K. Bartter

"No rules allowed." PFC Jonathon J. Hignett (left), combat engineer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, and Ryan B. Crone, 18, (right) skateboard as a way of relaxing on the afternoons and weekends.

# XTREMEWORX park slides a dose of x-treme fun to Station residents

LANCE Cpl. LYDIA DAVEY  
 Combat Correspondent

Every day, art with names like "Frontside Pop-Shuvit," "Ollie" and "Boardslide" is reproduced, perfected and displayed at a medium-sized concrete gallery here called XTREMEWORX.

XTREMEWORX, the Station skate park, is haven to a small but appreciative group of artists, said Christopher Reitman, Marine Corps Community Services entertainment coordinator.

"It's pretty important to have a skate park here," said PFC Jonathon J. Hignett, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. "People don't like it when kids are skating around, so having a designated skating spot is great."

The park, located behind the Provost Marshal's Office, is utilized by skaters ranging from Marines to elementary, middle and high school students, said Reitman.

Personal inspiration for participa-

tion in the sport varies.

"Skateboarding is fun," said Matt A. Parks, 11. "You get to do what you want - no rules!"

Ryan Crone, 18, agrees. "It feel's like you're free when you skateboard," he said. "It's just awesome."

Although the allure of freedom is strong, some skaters practice their craft with the specific intent of adhering to a set of rules.

Every year, MCCS hosts two skate competitions - drawing as many as 50 competitors per event.

The events, held each spring and summer, are open to the public, and often draw many Japanese nationals, said Reitman.



Although battered and beaten, every skateboard is customized for each individual skateboarder.



Ryan B. Crone, 18, skateboards up the ramp, jumps off the wall, catches his skateboard and lands a "Boneless Plant."

## 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	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

Friday 6:30 p.m. Shabbat

### 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.

## The Softer Side of a Military Policeman



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Elliot Drummond

Cpl. Adam Gabriel, military policeman, rescued a kitten while performing his duties as an animal control officer aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### IRONWORKS 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

- Today: Drawing for free Online Workout & Nutrition Program membership
- Saturday: Drawing for free basketball registration for two youth
- Sunday: 20 percent off personal training
- Monday: Drawing for two 60-minute full body massages
- Tuesday: Free Christmas cookies
- Wednesday: Jingle Bell Jog, 10 a.m. Enter for a chance to win the grand Prize Giveaway
- Thursday: Grand Prize Giveaway (\$150 gift certificate)

### YOUTH BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP

Free and for children ages 4-15, Dec. 29, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Sports Courts in IronWorks Gym. Food and drinks will be provided afterwards. Learn basic basketball fundamentals, including dribbling,

rebounding, shooting, defense, court rules and passing. Call Eugene Clark at 253-4803 for details. No sign-up is necessary.

### FAMILY APPRECIATION BOWLING DAYS

Saturday, 1-5 p.m. All games are half price at the Bowling Center. Call 253-4657 for more details.

### JINGLE BELL JOG

Wednesday, check in the IronWorks Gym at 10 a.m. The jog starts at 11 p.m. The two-kilometer jog features a costume contest for individuals, units, teams, offices, children and teens. A drawing for gift certificates, audio and visual equipment, games, an IT&T trip for two, and much more will be held. Participants receive free lunch. The Sports Courts will be closed all day Tuesday and Wednesday, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. in preparation for the Jog. For further information, call 253-6883.



# Panthers pounce on Dolphins for 15-14 win

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CR., LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

The Panthers clawed their way to victory over the Dolphins during the 11-15 year-old intramural flag football action here Dec. 7, beating them 15-14.

The first quarter of the game saw a strong defense by the Panthers. An interception by the team's linebacker, Cole Miller, put the ball in the Panthers' paws. The team controlled it through the majority of the first half.

Strong offensive plays coordinated by Miller, as well as defensive moves by Cody Flick and Brandon Fung, resulted in a half time shutout for the Dolphins: 15-0.

"Our biggest goal was to prepare the team mentally for the game," said Panthers' Coach Andre Fung. "We told them that the Dolphins were a team to beat. After that, all they had to do was execute the plays."

The second half of the game was not so easily won. The third quarter

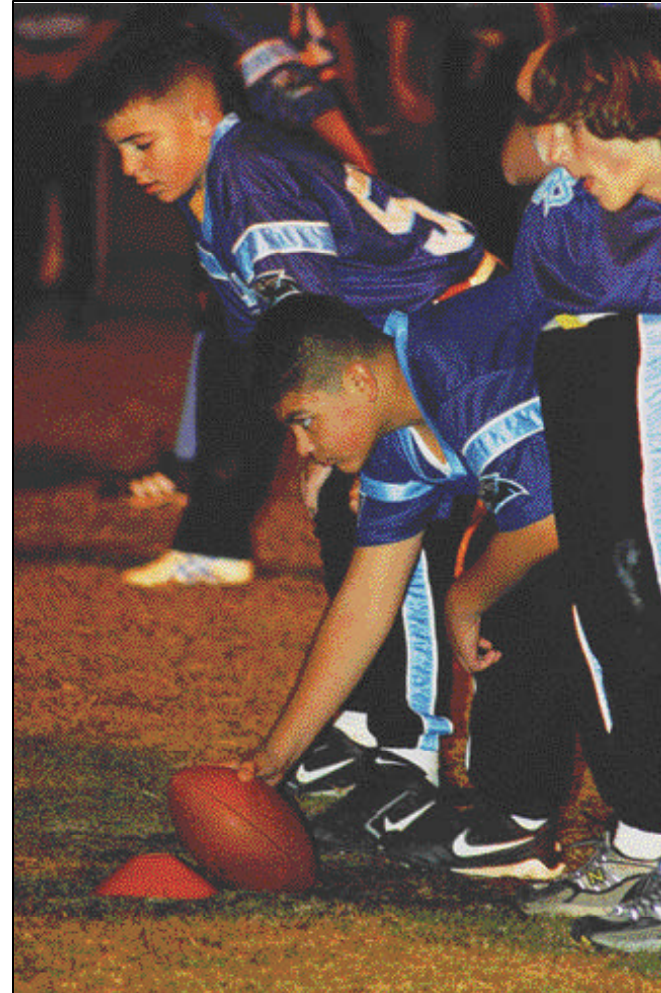
found the Dolphins fighting back and moving toward the end zone yard by yard. Despite the best efforts of the Panthers, the Dolphins came back, scoring one touchdown in the third quarter and another by the end of the second half.

However, a concentrated defensive effort by the Panthers prevented the Dolphins from successfully completing a third score, and the Panthers stalked off with a win.

Coach Fung was pleased with his team's efforts.

"There are a lot of kids here who have never played organized sports before," said Fung. "Yet even though we've only been playing a short time, I see improvements. They're learning to play as a team, and they really enjoy competing."

The win allowed the Panthers to maintain their claw-hold on victory throughout the season: 4-0.



Panthers Matt Forti, Javier Figueroa and Cole Miller put on their war faces prior to a play during their Dec. 7 game against the Dolphins here.



The Dolphins listen closely to their coach, Freddie Jones, during halftime at Penny Lake Field Dec. 7.



Dolphins' quarterback, Freddie Jones Jr., dodges past Mike Marshal and Cody Flick to score the game's first touchdown for his team.



Panthers' quarterback Mark Grant catches the snap during a game against the Dolphins here Dec. 7.