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Satellite service down; Station loses Television and Radio

PTC. MARK FAYLOGA
Combat Correspondent



Pacific-region American Forces Network satellite service was disrupted Friday, resulting in the loss of AFN television and radio programming services to Station residents.

All AFN television and radio programs are broadcast from the Defense Media Center in California by means of international communications satellites.

Iwakuni receives the signal for broadcast through a satellite decoder.

A major international communications satellite, INTELSAT 804, lost its ability to transmit anything at 3:10 p.m. Friday. The cause of the satellite failure has not yet been determined and an estimated time for service to return has not yet been established. Technicians are actively working to resolve the problem, according to an AFN website, www.myafn.net.

The current satellite feed AFN is using is the Direct to Sailor feed, better known as DTS, and AFN will continue to use this satellite feed until the DMC restores regular services.

Presently the AFN network here has

restored three television channels and regained a signal for AM radio. Channel 8 AFN Sports, 9/10 AFN Pacific and 11 AFN News are currently available. FM radio channels are unavailable at this time, said Sgt. Brian J. Griffin, AFN Iwakuni radio noncommissioned officer in charge.

AFN services are doing everything they can to fix the problem. In the case that regular services have not been restored by Super Bowl time, the Super Bowl will still be aired on AFN Sports, said Griffin.

In order to provide the Iwakuni community with more program choices, Marine Corps Community Services is

showing back-to-back movies on MCTV channel 19 beginning on the half hour, until further notice, said Griffin.

"Unfortunately, off-Station subscribers with Direct to Home service will be unable to receive full service until the satellite is fixed," he added.

The problem with AFN services can only be repaired by the Defense Media Center in California, but if Station residents have other questions or concerns they may contact Sgt. Griffin at 253-5661 or by e-mail at griffinbj@iwakuni.usmc.mil. This problem is AFN specific, and Station residents are asked not to call S-6 Communications/Electrical Maintenance.

Tsunami scam targets those who wish to help

CHL. DAVE BONI
Combat Correspondent

According to recent reports from the Associated Press, South African police have warned against scam artists pretending to be tsunami victims soliciting funds through e-mails and letters worldwide.

The report stated that more than four million letters and e-mails have been circulated. The first fraudulent claim was sent out Dec. 26 - the day the disaster struck. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also stated that a number of Web sites that purportedly

assist with the collection of supplies and relief efforts to aid survivors are really stealing money, spreading computer viruses and stealing personal information.

There are at least 15 variations of the claims, including one stating that the writers are residents of a destroyed Indonesian village, and another claiming to be helping victims of the disaster. With these scams in mind, Station officials warn residents here to remain vigilant when deciding to donate.

"If an individual desires to make a charitable donation to those affected by the tsunami, he should ensure that he is giving to a legitimate charity," said 1st

Lt. Adam J. Workman, Station Judge Advocate legal assistance officer. "The Web sites www.consumer.gov and www.give.org are good places to start when searching for a legitimate charitable organization. We recommend that individuals follow a few simple guidelines when solicited to donate money to charity."

If approached to donate funds, an individual should ask what percentage of the donation would support the cause described in the solicitation. Verify that the charity has authorized the solicitation. Workman said a charity can be checked out by contacting the Better

see SCAM Page 5

Andro-based substances banned from shelves throughout Pacific

LANCE CHL. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

As of Saturday, all products containing androstenedione - commonly referred to as "andro" - are no longer legal for use by U.S. citizens. Any products containing andro will be classified as controlled substances.

President George W. Bush recently signed a bill that rendered androstenedione

as one of 18 anabolic steroids banned in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 USC 802).

According to Marine Administrative Message 011/05, "Over the counter sales of anabolic steroids on Marine Corps installations is prohibited."

The MARADMIN also warns that abusers of anabolic steroids will face disciplinary action and may be processed for separation.

see ANDRO Page 5



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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Dr. King's dream lives on

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
Cmdr. Donald P. Fix

When I think about the events in the history of the world that I would have liked to witness, many come to mind. One that would go well on the top of my list would be that great event on 28 Aug. 1963. I would have loved to be one of the 250,000 people who attended the March on Washington, D.C. What an experience of a lifetime to have heard Dr. King's famous, "I Have a Dream" speech.

Last week at the Chapel many gathered for a commemorative service in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and it is always good to remind ourselves that freedom and

equality didn't just happen and cannot be taken for granted, nor are we anywhere near to where we need to be in meeting those goals in this country or throughout the world.

In the conclusion of his opening remarks, Station Commanding Officer Col. Michael Dyer challenged each of the ceremony's participants to have a dream and live out that dream. If each of us takes that charge seriously and begins in his or her own way to participate in and believe in a dream for a better world, how different this world would be.

I'm reminded of one of Mother Teresa's sayings - that one drop of water changes the whole ocean and one person can change the whole

world. That is certainly true of the life of Dr. King, and his dream lives on in the lives of so many people - for it did not die when his life so tragically ended, but it continues to speak to the hearts of those who believe the same truths.

His dream has indeed changed the world, but it is still in the process and not yet complete.

Although I wasn't one of those who 41 years ago stood and heard the words from Dr. King, I am thankful those words have been preserved for future generations to reflect upon. No matter if I was in that audience or not I need to make his dream my own and act upon it each day of my life.

Ask the Inspector



MAJ. MATTHEW D. RAZVILLAS
Station Inspector

needed. Based on these findings, it was recommended to close down the sea wall. With concern for station personnel safety, the commanding officer made the decision to close it down.

The seawall is not the property of Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni. It is the property of the Government of Japan. The government has set aside funds to survey and repair the seawall within their fiscal year 2005, which begins this April. We are presently repairing the hole created by the cavern, which is scheduled for completion by mid-February. We were requested by the government to do this.

Prior to the typhoon, the Government of Japan had planned to survey the wall. The money had to be budgeted and that fell into FY2005. We have addressed our concerns to the government with getting the survey and repairs done now, but their timelines and budget did not allow it.

We are currently assessing the seawall for any visible changes. This will be conducted and completed in conjunction with the ongoing repairs. At that time, the Facilities department will make the recommendation to the Station commanding officer as to whether the seawall can be open to foot traffic only and what sections can be opened.

If you have a question or concern, you can contact the Station Inspector at 253-3100 or by email at RazvillasMD@iwakuni.usmc.mil or NaseerD@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

CHATTERBOX

Question: "What will you be doing for the Super Bowl?"



"I'll probably go to the Marine Lounge and watch it on the big screen."

Petty Officer 3rd Class
Tien D. Nguyen
Fort Worth, Texas



"I will get together with some friends, enjoy some adult beverages and just have fun."

Ensign Charles F. Bell
Louisville, Ky.



"I live in a house full of men so I'm sure we will be watching it. I'll get some earplugs and warn the neighbors that it will get loud at my house."

Katie E. Miller
Canton, Ohio



"I will probably just have some guys from my shop over to enjoy some food and the game. My team is not in it so I'll just be watching."

Staff Sgt. Andrew G. Eldridge
Decatur, Tenn.

Tax program brings rewards

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program saves Marines millions

Pfc. LUKAS J. BLOM
Combat Correspondent

The time to file income taxes is upon us, and the Office of the Station Judge Advocate is preparing the annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for Station residents.

The VITA program is designed to facilitate electronic tax filing for all Marines, Sailors, Department of Defense civilians and Status of Forces Agreement status employees. Volunteers will prepare mail-in returns as well.

"This program continues to be a major quality of life benefit enjoyed by our military community," noted a Marine Administrative message by 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 an individual taxpayer identification number for both the tax filer and all dependents claimed on this year's tax return as well as their W-2 (wage and tax statement), according to the SJA office. 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 the resident's checking or savings account numbers.

"Refunds should be in your savings or checking

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

"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."

Gen. Michael W. Hagee
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Visits to the Station tax center last 30-45 minutes on average. 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 Lt. Stone at 253-4398 or the SJA at 253-5591.

Lucky Red Lions stalk onto Station

Pfc. LUKAS J. BLOM
Combat Correspondent

The Lucky Red Lions of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 landed aboard the Station Dec. 12, from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, to support the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force heavy lift needs and provide tactical helicopter assault support.

"We plan on increasing our Core Skill Proficiency (CSP) by flying flights (that are summarized by) our Training and Readiness Manual while stationed here," said Lt. Seth F. Gibson, HMH-363, ground training officer. "The manual identifies what skills are necessary to perform our mission, so we'll practice those flights that we will actually be doing in combat."

On the blades of the CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopters, the Lions bring to the Station a 53-year history of distinguished service from Vietnam to Somalia to current humanitarian assistance operations. Most recently, HMH-363 participated in Exercise Rim of the Pacific, and Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise and received their third consecutive Chief of Naval Operations aviation safety award.

The mission of HMH-363 is to provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. The squadron will employ six Sea Stallions aboard the Station, said Gibson. Each Helicopter has a capacity to carry 24 combat loaded

Marines, and requires two pilots and two crew chiefs to operate.

Alongside the Marines in the air, many Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 are on hand for maintenance and support.

"The Marines from MALS-24 integrated directly into MALS-12; they're certainly doing a great job supporting the Red Lions," said Gibson.

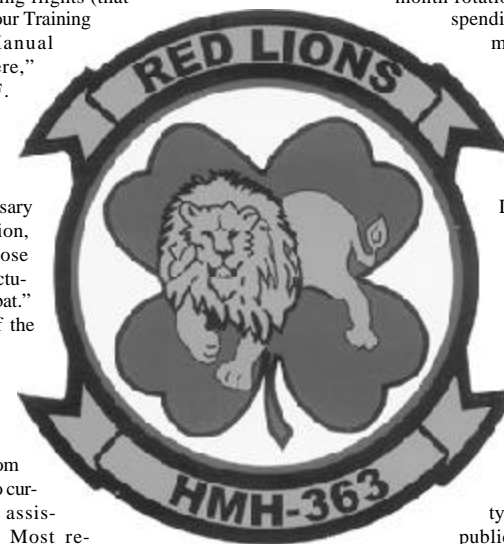
The current Unit Deployment Program 18-month rotation has the Red Lions spending approximately six months at the Station, then returning to Kaneohe Bay for 12 months.

"We are happy to be back in Iwakuni," said 1st Lt. Seth Gibson, pilot. "The squadron has always enjoyed its time over here."

After the arrival of the advanced party on Nov. 9 2004, a real world contingency arose in the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force area of responsibility. Multiple typhoons struck the Republic of the Philippines causing severe damage and loss of life. Joint Task Force 535 was immediately assembled and sent to aide the country.

Two CH-53Ds and personnel were assigned to JTF-535. These assets operated in the Quezon province, and flew in direct support to move 202,500 lbs of food, water and clothing in 10 days.

"The Red Lions stand ready to execute real world operations and continue to set the standard for assault support in the Pacific," said Gibson.



NEWS BRIEFS

ENLISTED SPOUSES CLUB TO HOST TEA, COFFEE PARTY

The Enlisted Spouses Club is hosting a coffee and tea party at Building 658 Community Room Jan. 29, 2-5 p.m. Call to reserve free daycare. For more information, call 253-2534 or 253-2614.

MAKING PARENTING FUN

Marine & Family Services is offering a parenting class Monday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Call 253-6553 for further details.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM HOSTS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Single Marine Program is hosting the Madden Football Tournament Jan. 29, 6 p.m. Prizes will be offered for first, second and third place winners. For more information, contact the Single Marine Program at 253-3585.

INTERCULTURAL COUPLES GROUP

This group is open to all intercultural couples and is intended to be a fun, positive atmosphere in which to explore cultural differences and/or challenges in relationships and learn how to turn these challenges into possibilities for creative change and communication. The group meets every other Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. Call 253-4526 if interested.

Government seeks to prevent identity theft

STORY COMPILED BY TORII TELLER STAFF

Locks, bars and chains can't help protect an individual's identity, but the Department of Defense is taking steps to protect service members, their families and civilian employees from being victimized.

Several cases of identity theft are reported to the Station Judge Advocate's office here each quarter, said 1st Lt. Adam Workman, Station legal assistance officer.

Identity theft is a crime that involves an unknown person using an individual's name, address, social security number, bank number, credit card number or other identifying information illegally.

"Often a service member has no idea who stole his ID or how the theft occurred," said Workman. "In some cases we see Marines who have fallen victim to an unscrupulous employee at a credit card company, but more often than that a sibling or parent has taken out a credit card in the service member's name."

According to Workman, relatives often intend to pay back the money they have taken, but fail to do so.

Identity theft, branded a federal crime by the Identity Theft and Assumption

Deterrence Act of 1998, caused more than \$50 billion in loss by businesses and consumers in 2003, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

Five years ago, the number of complaints to the FTC was almost 20,000. By 2001, the rate had more than tripled, reaching nearly 90,000. Since then, the numbers of complaints of identity theft have increased even more, nearly topping 215,000 in 2004. The DoD is seeking new and better ways to protect service members, their families and employees from identity theft in response to the crime's rising notoriety.

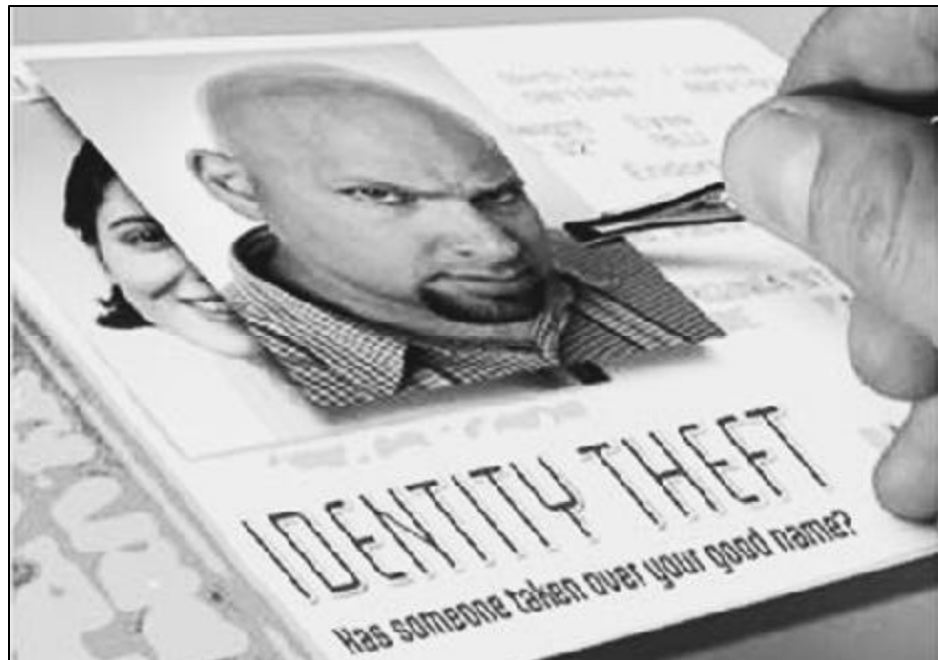


photo illustration provided courtesy of U.S. Postal Service

Marine Corps Legal Assistance Offices joined a group of federal, state and local agencies and national advocacy organizations to launch the 6th Annual National Consumer Protection Week highlighting consumer protection and education efforts around the country in January 2004.

"It's vitally important for Marines to make themselves better financial planners and more aware of their rights as consumers," said Capt. Brian Keller, deputy head, Marine Corps Legal Assistance.

"Every time you consider purchasing life insurance, try to understand a credit report or plan for your retirement or your child's education, you are entering territory that requires keen awareness of your consumer rights. Every financial decision has some impact on your quality of life."

In February 2004, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announced they would begin dropping the first five digits of a person's social security numbers from all pay statements and checks - namely the Leave and Earning Statements issued to all service members, military retirees and DoD civilians. Marines, Sailors and other service members often use their social security numbers as their primary means of identification; this can make them an easy target for identity thieves.

The change was made for all hard copy LESS. It does not apply to electronic copies of statements found on myPay, the online system for access and control of customers pay information at <http://mypay.dfas.mil>.

In November of last year, the Department of Veterans Affairs updated the Veterans Identity Card to closer reflect the Armed Forces

Identity Card and safeguard confidential information in the battle against identity theft.

A veteran's social security number, date of birth, control number and service-connected disability is recorded on an encrypted magnetic strip on the back of the card.

"The new VIC ensures the security of veterans' personal information as well as ensuring that only eligible veterans receive the benefits and services they've earned," said Kristin Cunningham, business office official, VA health-care system.

While no one can know exactly when an identity theft occurs, there are precautionary measures a service member can take, according to Workman:

1. Match credit card receipts against monthly bills.
2. Keep track of receipt times for financial statements. Contact sender if not on time.
3. Notify credit card companies and financial agencies in advance of address/phone number changes.
4. Always beware of solicitations, especially of those offering prizes or promotions.
5. Get your photo on your credit card.
6. When disclosing information online, make sure the padlock icon is on "locked" on the bottom of the browser.
7. The following website explains the "active duty" alert which may be beneficial to service members. <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2004/10/facataidtheft.htm>

While any of these indications could be a result of a simple error, the FTC advises consumers to not assume there's been a mistake and do nothing. Their advice is to always follow up with the business or institution to find out. The FTC listed identity theft as the number one fraud reported by consumers in 2003.

Like any crime, there is no guaranteed safeguard against identity theft. However, consumers who make themselves aware of their rights and guard against identity theft will be able to navigate calmer seas in the financial ocean.

Stolen identity?

Consumers who think their identity has been stolen should follow several immediate steps, according to the FTC:

- Contact the fraud department of any one of the three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian or Trans Union, and place a fraud alert on your credit file.
- Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to creditors and others that may require proof of the crime.
- File your complaint with the FTC. The FTC maintains a database of identity theft cases used by law enforcement agencies for investigation.

For more information from the FTC on identity theft, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft/index.html. For legal advisories for Marines, visit www.usmc.mil.

Two stand-up guys provide comic relief for Iwakuni

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. MARK FAYLOGA
Combat Correspondent

Service members laughed it up in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom during a comedy showcase here, Jan. 12.

The show featured two Lone Wolf Entertainment comedians: Mo Amer (Mohammed M. Amer) and White Chocolate (Ronald Moore). The two had performed in Iwakuni previously and this was their third time aboard the Station, but their first time working together.

"I like performing in Iwakuni because it's a Marine base," said Amer. "My brother was a Marine from 1996 to 2000, so I know what the Marine Corps is all about."

The crowd enjoyed the show as Amer scored laughs at the expense of the American Forces Network, his childhood and differences between American and Asian cultures.

"Amer was really funny last time I saw him here, and I thought he was great this time," said Leilani Nutting, Station resident.

Moore took the stage after Amer, and the bulk of his comedy related to his childhood, relationships and what he calls "a black man's view of the world through a white guy." However, Moore scored his biggest laughs when talking about the Station's "sacred cow" - the liberty card program.

"I came down to Club Iwakuni to get some food - I didn't even know they had comedians coming but I'm glad I stayed; they were both hilarious," said Lance Cpl. Scotty W. Riddle,



White Chocolate hams it up during the Comedy Showcase here.



Mo Amer scores some laughs during a comedy showcase Jan. 12 in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. This is Amer's third time performing in Iwakuni.



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron postal clerk.

Amer first gained an interest in comedy during fifth grade as he watched Bill Cosby. When he got older he won a comedy contest and was invited to perform at a comedy club. Since then, Amer has appeared regularly on Comedy Central and has toured the United States, Europe and Asia, he said.

White Chocolate, a white comedian adopted and raised by a black family, first acquired an interest in comedy while watching Steve Martin in "The Jerk" (a movie where Martin is raised by a black family). Then one day, Moore competed in an open mic contest and won \$500. After that, Moore decided to stick with comedy, he said.

Since his decision to stay with comedy, Moore has appeared on Black Entertainment Television's

"Comic View" seven times, has toured the United States with "Def Comedy Jam," written for "Chappelle's Show" and is currently head writer for "Steve Harvey's Big Time Challenge" (a comedic variety show on the Warner Brothers Television Network), and the radio broadcast of the "Steve Harvey Morning Show."

"I enjoy performing on Marine bases because I know the history of the Marine Corps," said Moore. "I appreciate the entire military, but especially the Marines because they're the most hard-core; they're the best we've got."

The Club Iwakuni Ballroom will host another comedy showcase entitled "He Said, She Said" on Jan. 25, at 9 p.m. The event is sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services and is free to all personnel ages 18 and older.

SCAM from Page 1

Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance: 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22203; 703-276-0100; www.give.org.

"Do not give out personal or financial information - including Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers - to anyone who solicits a contribution from you. Scam artists can use this information to commit fraud against you," he said. "Ask for a receipt showing the amount of the contribution and stating that it is tax-deductible and do not give cash. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check - made payable to the beneficiary, not the solicitor."

Donators should also ask for identification if approached in person. Many states require paid fund-raisers to identify themselves as such and to name the charity for which they are soliciting.

For any questions contact SJA at 253-5591.

ANDRO from Page 1

During early December, the Station's General Nutrition Center vitamin and supplement store pulled all andro-based products from its shelves, said Rie Johnson, GNC supervisor.

"The andro-based supplements we carried [in December] included Animal Stack, Andro Stack, 1AD T/Bomb and 19 Norandrostack," said Johnson. "As soon as we received word of the change in policy, we sent the supplements back to the warehouse."

The Station's Marine Corps Exchange joined Army and Air Force Exchange services throughout the Pacific region in removing the supplements, according to a Dec. 22 report by the Pacific edition of the Stars and Stripes.

According to the report, using any andro-based substance - even if purchased before Jan. 20 - is illegal.



ABOVE: A statue of a child, one of the Peace Park's many monuments, stands in remembrance of the thousands of children who lost their lives in a single moment nearly 60 years ago. RIGHT: A woman gazes at the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. From the Cenotaph, the Atomic Bomb dome and Flame of Peace can be viewed. Dirt from the ground where the bomb exploded sits in wooden pedestals to either side of the structure.



ABOVE: The view from inside the arches of the Cenotaph greets visitors to the Hiroshima Peace Park. The Atomic Bomb Dome and the Flame of Peace are two of the more well known monuments in the park. BELOW: "People At Peace" - one of the monuments at the entrance of Hiroshima's Peace Park conveys the meaning of the park in three simple words. The many monuments of the Peace Park left a lasting impression on the Marines and Sailors who visited there.



Two Japanese men stand on a bridge spanning the Motoyasu River, and perform songs advocating peace. Hiroshima is considered a center for education and arts, as well as a city of peace.

Station Marines visit Peace Park

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PTC LUKAS J. BLOM
Combat Correspondent

A Marine stands with his head bowed in front of the skeleton of a building consumed by an atomic bomb almost 60 years ago. To his right stands an old Japanese woman, her head also bowed, and tears trickling down her face. The beauty of this scene is not immediately apparent, but it is there.

The two figures standing in front of the rubble each belong to different cultures that were enemies almost 60 years ago. Now they remember the devastation of war and reflect on it side by side as allies.

The Single Marine Program hosted a sight-seeing and shopping excursion to the Hiroshima Peace Park and shopping districts for Station Marines and Sailors, Jan. 16.

The 17 Marines and Sailors began their cultural journey at 10 a.m. outside of the Hornets Nest, boarding a bus destined for Hiroshima's Peace Park. Once they arrived, they were encouraged to visit the park's monuments and museum, as well as tour the many shops and restaurants nearby.

The Hiroshima day-trippers started out the day's adventure by touring the Peace Park. The Atomic Bomb Dome and numerous other monuments commemorating the destruction of the Japanese city left a true impact on Marines and Sailors.

"Seeing the damage that the A-Bomb caused helped me to realize the true effects," said Cpl. James A. Scott, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 ground support equipment representative. "I wasn't reading about it or looking at photos in a book anymore. Seeing it first hand gave me a whole different

perspective; it was just so devastating."

After viewing the monuments and museum exhibits, the Marines and Sailors hit the town for some food and shopping.

"They've got everything here, great food and tons of places to go shopping," said Scott. "We had a lot of fun out here."

Although Hiroshima is a bustling metropolitan area, there is an ever-present sense of traditional culture throughout the city.

"While we were sitting down to eat at a little restaurant, we saw a Japanese woman dressed in a Kimono and other pieces of traditional Japanese clothing," said Sgt. Antonio Gonzalez, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 microminiature technician. "We went over and talked to her. She was so nice; she even let us get our picture taken with her."

Modern day Hiroshima is considered a city of peace and a center for education and the arts, according to a Peace Memorial Museum representative.

Walking through the streets of Hiroshima it is not uncommon to see musicians performing on sidewalks or citizens handing out leaflets endorsing world peace.

The Single Marine Program continues to offer unaccompanied Marines and Sailors a chance to get off base and socialize with each other.

"I've been to a lot of Marine bases," said Gonzalez. "This is the only place that I've been to that does trips like this. Marines are just missing out if they don't take advantage of these opportunities. They should take advantage while they can."

For more information on Single Marine Program trips, call the Hornet's Nest at 253-3585.



The Atomic Bomb Dome, located in the Peace Park, has stood for nearly 60 years as a reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear war. The Single Marine Program toured the park Jan. 16.

Japanese, Americans take swings at goodwill

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC LUKAS J. BLOM
Combat Correspondent

The third annual Japanese and American Goodwill Golf Tournament was held at the Torii Pines Golf Course here Jan. 9, promoting goodwill between Iwakuni's business community and the Station.

Competing golfers were split into 16 teams of four golfers apiece. Each team consisted of two American and two Japanese players that were paired



A golf ball lies just outside of the fairway, waiting to be struck into it's "home," the hole, at Torii Pines Golf Course during the 3rd annual Japanese and American Golf Tournament here, Jan. 9



Mitsukuni Odagawa hammers a drive from the tee box of the 10th hole during the 3rd annual Japanese and American Goodwill Golf Tournament, Jan. 9, at the Torii Pines Golf Course here.

together in an arbitrary manner. On each of the course's 18 holes, the teams took the scores from the two golfers who had the lowest stroke-count for the hole.

"It's a very random way of picking partners, but it seems to be working," said Gary M. Groff, Torii Pines Golf Course manager. "It's amazing to watch them play through the language barrier."

Taking home the award for lowest combined score was Ronald J. Nash, Vasco Sutton, Horikawa Koji and Hironaka Yoshimi, who shot a combined round of 21 strokes under par.

The competition kicked off at 9 a.m. with each team starting at randomly selected holes.

Through the first nine, everything was going well for the teams and it looked as if it was anybody's tournament, until one team pulled ahead of the pack on a single hole.

"On the 5th hole, [Vasco Sutton] thought he hit the ball out-of-

bounds," said Nash. "Turns out he ended up being about a foot away from the fence. From there he chipped it about 80 yards and landed it two feet from the hole. He ended up making the putt for a birdie. It was a very memorable shot."



Dave Allison sinks a 20-foot putt on the 9th green. Allison also won the Close To Pin Competition on the 2nd hole, placing the ball 3'9" from the pin.

Then the rain came.

"When it started to rain, we were like, 'uh-oh,'" said Nash. "Things started to get a little slippery, but when it stopped we started playing better again."

The play continued without pause until the teams finished their rounds and turned in their scorecards.

The group then proceeded up to the Club Iwakuni Ballroom to discuss the day's competition and eat lunch.

Groff took the podium to announce the winners, silencing the buzz of golfers exchanging scores.

He first read off the winners of the Close To Pin Competition (the golfer who got closest to the hole from his drive); Dave Allison on the 2nd hole, Takeuchi Mikio on the 6th hole, Wayne Gilmore on the 11th hole and James Clark on the 13th hole. Hideki Grondin was named the winner of the Longest Drive Competition, leaving only one category left.

The golfers anxiously awaited the announcement of the winning team.

Applause erupted as the winning team was announced and presented with its prizes; each member received a new Nike golf bag.

All the participants, however they performed, received a commemorative hat for participating in the event.

"The great thing about this tournament is that everyone walks away a winner," said Groff.

"Whether it was a hat or a golf bag, everyone walked away with something."