The Iwakuni Paper

Friday, January 18, 2008 Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan Issue No. 2, Vol. I

Mess night, MAG-12-style

Ready Group puts spin on beloved tradition



Members of Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters Company prepare for their 3.5-mile hike from the station's north side to Penny Lake, where they later held a field mess night Jan. 11. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

Some say Norse Viking clans began the ceremony as a raucous celebration after returning from successful raids on distant shores in the opening centuries of the Christian Era. Others argue the British Navy refined the practice as a formal nightly gathering for its officers in the early 19th century. Many believe former Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr. institutionalized the custom at Marine Barracks 8th and I in the summer of

While its origin is debatable, the Marine Corps Mess Night stands as a favorite tradition of leathernecks stationed the world over.

Sacrificing a formal dining hall for a group of olive-drab tents and dress uniforms for woodland camouflage and face paint, Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters Company put its own special twist on a mess night held at the Penny Lake athletic field here Friday.

SEE **MESS** ON PAGE 3

Station workers 'back in saddle' after annual training

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

For most, the new year means the end of the holiday season and time to get back into the swing of things. Some use it as a fresh opportunity to do away with unwanted habits and to live life safer and more efficiently.

That opportunity was taken when station workers attended the 2008 MCAS Iwakuni Back in the Saddle (BITS) Safety Stand Down at the Sakura Theater here, Jan 10.

The required training event, coordinated by station safety personnel, aimed at grabbing the attention of military and civilian personnel after the holiday break and highlighting operational risk management (ORM) and the handling of personally identifiable information (PII).

Words from Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer and native of State College, Pa., kicked off the presentation, encouraging vigilance, readiness, quality of life and the importance of being a good ambassador in a foreign country.

The speech was followed by a period of instruction of the ORM process and its application in the workplace. During the presentation, station workers were informed on the prevention of mishaps by working with them and not around them.

"Hazards can be found all around the areas we work," said Sean KimHan, a station safety inspector. "The key to preventing injuries and accidents is

simply planning ahead, noting all possible hazardous situations before they arrive and doing our best to eliminate them."

KimHan suggested a routine walk-through of the work area, removing damaged or broken equipment that would otherwise cause injury through continued

"If one piece of broken equipment hurts someone because it wasn't replaced, not only are we losing the tools we need to do our job but the manpower as well," said KimHan. "Each work section should do its part to make sure this is never the case."

Part of the BITS Safety Stand Down mission is the completion of unit-level operational pauses that cover areas pertaining to job-specific hazardous

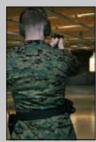
Safety in the workplace doesn't stop at steering clear of physical harm, according to Maj. Mike K. Jeron, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

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NSIDE IWAKUNI



MLK Day encourages people to remember



Corps' one, only ISAR gives Iwakuni trigger time



Playoffs: Liberty Risk escapes Lancers 13-6



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

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

The Iwakuni Paper 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 IWKN_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc. mil.

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MLK Day encourages people to remember, hope, act

King was committed to live for a great cause, not a great comfort

Master Sgt. John Cordero THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

Most of my heroes have been dead for more than 200 years. One reason is that the greater distance in time between my heroes and me seems to make admiration easier.

This could be one reason why some people stumble over Martin Luther King Day. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is too close, and his faults can still be seen at the distance of nearly 40 years.

King knew he was not perfect, especially when he was caught in some of his less than admirable behavior, as Stephen Oates touches on in his book "Let the Trumpet Sound: The Life of Martin Luther King Jr." Yet, for all his flaws King is still one of my heroes of the 20th century.

He was a man committed to live for a great cause, not a great comfort, a cause to see mercy and justice prevail in a prejudiced and pain-filled world. King was a man who dreamed a dream bigger than himself, and his communication of that dream stirred up people to care about racial diversity and harmony. King is one of my heroes because he never ran from pursuing freedom and equality for all people but courageously stood like steel in the face of violent opposition to the point of death.

The third Monday in January is Martin Luther King Day, a day that recognizes King's birthday in Atlanta, Ga., on Jan. 15, 1929, and celebrates his life and legacy. The existence of Martin Luther King Day is very significant in the United States. Arguably nobody in U.S. history was hated and loved by more people than King. His speeches, marches and countless nonviolent activities designed to overturn

the social and legal injustices done to "black" people outraged many "white" people. Yet his heroic stature among people of all color is ever increasing.

The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of my admiration for King is his "Letter from Birmingham Iail"

In Birmingham, Ala., on April 12, 1963, King led a peaceful demonstration against the racial injustices there. Segregation was deeply rooted in such things as bus seating, schools, parks, restrooms and drinking fountains. In response to desegregation efforts, some people bombed and torched black homes and churches, which caused the city to be dubbed "Bombingham."

One fact that may have prevented people of lesser conviction and character from following their conscience in leading a demonstration was a state-court injunction that prohibited King and other civil rights leaders from demonstrating. With a wife and four children in Atlanta, King still decided that perceived public disobedience was justified, so he peacefully demonstrated.

King led 50 other people downtown and up to the police line, coming face-to-face with the head of police. King then knelt down in prayer. He and all the demonstrators were subsequently thrown in jail.

On April 16, King read a letter published in the city paper that was written by eight white Alabama clergymen who criticized King for demonstrating. King responded by writing the "Letter From Birmingham Jail," which King biographer Stephen Oates described as "the most eloquent and learned expression of the goals and philosophy of the nonviolent movement ever written."

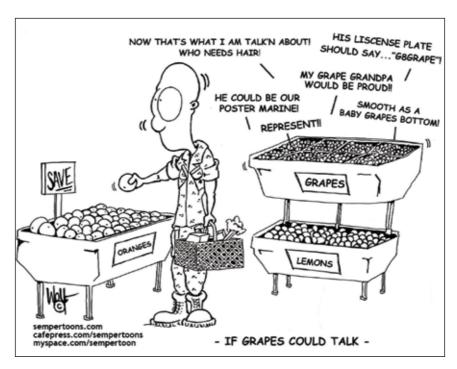
The clergymen said King needed to be more patient and not demonstrate.



Martin Luther King Jr. was an important figure in the civil rights movement whose birthday and achievements will be observed Monday. File photo

King wrote:

Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging dark of segregation to say, "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters: when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six-year-old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five-year-old son who is asking: "Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?"; when you take a cross-county drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white" and "colored"; when your first name becomes "nigger," your middle name becomes "boy" (however old you are) and your last name becomes "John," and your wife and mother are never given the respected title "Mrs."; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing



SEE MLK ON PAGE 4

According to Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham Jr., Marine Aircraft Group 12 senior enlisted and native of Avon Park, Fla., early January was the only time the Ready Group could find in its busy training schedule to come together for the event.

"We want to take advantage of this small moment at the beginning of 2008 and just celebrate the traditions and camaraderie of the Corps," said Durham.

The evening was as much physical as it was fun for the Marines and sailors. To get to the tents where mess night would be held, they had to complete a 3.5-mile hike around the flight line from their barracks on the station's north side to Penny Lake.

A constant drizzle didn't seem to dampen the warriors' spirits as they belted out loud cadence while marching with loaded Molle packs.

"The conditions were perfect: nice overcast weather," said Lance Cpl. Daniel A. Sanner, MAG-12 special intelligence system administrator and native of Richland, Wash. "It was a little moist, but hey, we're amphibious.'

Upon arrival the service members stowed their packs, grabbed their canteen cups and lined up for cocktail hour at the bar, which was little more than a folding table set up inside a tent. Durham said he wanted the Marines and sailors to have a good time, but added the field-like setting was to remind them of their brothers and sisters serving downrange in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"Being here in Iwakuni ... there's not much vegetation, but we wanted to have the ambiance of being in the field and that warrior spirit and ethos that we displayed," said Durham, his voice hoarse from calling cadence during the hike.

At the 5 p.m. sounding of "March On," two lines of participants made their way into the largest tent for the evening's main event. Dinner was soon served and the floor opened up for the humorous formalities of the mess. Accusations flew followed by laughter as the Ready Group tried to elicit fines from or issue ladles of grog to patrons possessing "contraband" or not following the mess's strict protocol.

One mess night first-timer said the event proved to be an enjoyable experience, even though he found himself paying up several times.

"I got fined as part of the group (who brought) cameras and for not having a coin," said Lance Cpl. Roberto Rodriguez, MAG-12 aviation information

"It was what I was hoping for as far as having fun,"

added the Wauseon, Ohio, native. "It (brought) us closer together as group. We bonded a bit with all the shops, not just our individual shops."

The night wound down with traditional toasts to Marines past and present and the singing of the Marines Hymn. For Durham, the event was bittersweet, as it would be his last with the Ready Group before departing Iwakuni in February.

"The purpose of this mess night is for the exactly how we've done it in years past and to give

them the torch, so to speak, to carry on the traditions," he said. "I think it's important that as I posture myself



young Marines to see Members of Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters Company finish their soup while they wait for the main course to be served in a tent set up at Penny Lake during their field mess night Jan. 11. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

for retirement years that the Marines are given all that we have within us."

Kickoff commences cookie season



Young ladies from station Brownie and Junior Girl Scout Troops stand with Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, during the Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff at Crossroads Mall Jan. 11. Winner of the kickoff, Brownie Girl Scout Troop 92, was awarded the opportunity to sell the CO the first box of cookies for the year. The girls will be selling cookies at the Base Exchange, Commissary, North and Southside Seven-Day stores, Post Office and Crossroads Mall Fridays and Saturdays throughout January and February. Photo courtesy of Lesley Reyes

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training officer-in-charge.

During his presentation of PII, Jeron informed station workers on the importance of keeping identities secure as well.

"When we let out personal information such as social security

numbers, home addresses and medical information, we put ourselves at risk for someone to come along and take charge of our money and ruin us financially," said Jeron.

Shredding important documents is no longer enough, according to Jeron. With the advancements in the information age, identity crimes are just as likely to happen over the Internet and can consequently become more difficult to trace.

"The best way to make sure that your identity is intact is to give out the least amount of personal information as possible," Jeron added.

The PII class is the newest addition to the annual BITS Safety Stand Down training as it has become a relevant item for discussions concerning individual and operational safety.

Although safety stand downs are conducted routinely throughout the year, the BITS Safety Stand Down was aimed at getting station workers to focus on job safety at an individual and operational level.

News Briefs

2008 MLK Celebration

A celebration today commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will commence at the Marine Memorial Chapel here at 10 a.m.

Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, will be the guest speaker

For more information on the free event, call 253-4186.

Tax Center Open

The Tax Center is now open for all station residents in an effort to help prepare and electronically file federal and state income tax returns

To make an appointment, call 253-3540 Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours scheduled to change during peak season.

The tax center is located in Building 608, Provost Marshal's Office Law Center, inside the Office of the Station Judge Advocate.

Iwakuni Club Beyond

Club Beyond is a globally recognized, command endorsed and funded faith-based youth program that desires to reach out to every military student in grades 7 - 12.

Club Beyond will have monthly events along with retreats and service projects. The youth meetings consist of games, skits, music and a faith-based talk. For more information, call 253-5183 or visit http://iwakuniteens.blogspot.com.



(Top) Lance Cpl. Noah S. Rosenthal, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron military policeman and native of Herndon, Va., fires at his target during pistol pre-qualification at the Indoor Small Arms Range here Jan. 6. Photos by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

(Right) Pfc. Mike M. McLaughlin, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron military policeman and native of Douglas, Ma., pastes shot holes in his target at the ISAR Jan. 6.

Corps' one, only ISAR gives Iwakuni valuable trigger time

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

Iwakuni Marines are at a disadvantage when it comes to rifle qualification. A trip to the range means a flight to Okinawa for the weeklong stay at Camp Hansen, which limits the amount of air station personnel to receive annual training with their M-16s.

But this doesn't mean these warriors still can't get in some trigger time. Iwakuni is home to the only Indoor Small Arms Range (ISAR) in the Marine Corps, and every week leathernecks take part in its pistol qualification course to hone the deadly accuracy Marines are famous for

"For (corporals) and below it's basically just to get familiarized with the weapon," said Sgt. Luis M. Betancourt, ISAR assistant chief of operations. "For a lot of (military occupational specialties) here on base, the M9 pistol is their primary weapon."

For sergeants and above, qualification is reflected on fitness reports, which in turn counts toward the individual's promotion, he added.

Before stepping foot on the firing lines, service members go through a day of weapon familiarization. Every aspect of the M9 is broken down so shooters have a full understanding of the pistol.

We teach safety rather than put a weapon in a Marine's hand and

expect him to know what to do with it, said Betancourt, a native of Chicopee, Ma.

"A lot of Marines ... have never touched a pistol let alone shot one," he added.

Once shooters

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what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness" then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair. I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience.

To the charge that he was taking "extreme measures," King responded in the letter like this:

Was not Jesus an extremist for love: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Was not Amos an extremist for justice: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Was not Paul an extremist for the Christian gospel: "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Was not Martin Luther (the German religious reformer) an extremist: "Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God." And John Bunyan: "I will stay in jail to the end of my days before I make a butchery of my conscience." And Abraham Lincoln: "This nation cannot survive half slave and half free." And Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal ..." So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists will we be. Will we be extremists for

hate or for love? Will we be extremist for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice? In that dramatic scene on Calvary's hill three men were crucified. We must never forget that all three were crucified for the same crime -- the crime of extremism. Two were extremists for immorality, and thus fell below their environment. The other, Jesus Christ, was an extremist for love, truth and goodness, and thereby rose above his environment. Perhaps the South, the nation and the world are in dire need of creative extremists.

If King was an extremist, he was an extremist for love and justice; he was a creative extremist who had a beautiful dream.

On August 28, 1963, 34-year-old King stood before the Lincoln Memorial and said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. ... I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

King pursued and articulated that great dream.

Unfortunately, King's pursuit was cut short by a nightmarish act of hate.

On April 4, 1968, at 6 p.m., 39-year-old King was

shot and killed while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., by James Earl Ray, who took aim with a .30 caliber rifle and blew away the right side of King's face and neck. King died at St. Joseph's hospital 75 minutes later. The voice of peace and goodwill toward mankind was silenced by the murderous rage of racism.

Those who hated King and his message reportedly cheered when they received the news of King's death. One FBI agent allegedly said, "They finally got the SOB!"

Those who loved King reacted contrary to King's nonviolent tactics. Riots broke out in 110 cities; tens of thousands of federal troops were sent to U.S. cities to "keep the peace"; 711 fires blazed in Washington D.C. alone

The existence of Martin Luther King Day testifies to the division in the United States today. This memorial day is more than recognition of King's birth, life and legacy. It's also a day that cries for justice. Many things have changed, but King's dream is not yet realized.

His dream was much bigger than how people of different shades of color behave toward each other. His dream included how people feel and think about each other. Ultimately, his dream encompassed the biblical vision of all God's children being free to see and savor the glory of the Lord.

That dream and vision will become reality; it's only a matter of time.

RCT-2: A year in review

Cpl. Adam Johnston 2ND MARINE DIVISION

CAMP RIPPER, AL ASAD, Iraq -- (Jan. 11, 2008) -- After more than 12 months of hard work and tireless dedication, the Marines and sailors of Regimental Combat Team 2 have finally reached the proverbial end of the tunnel. Needless to say, the light is blissfully blinding.

Their deployment, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, began on the eve of Dec. 30, 2006. RCT-2 officially "took the fight" from RCT-7, which is based out of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., on Jan. 20, 2007, during a transfer of authority ceremony here.

The RCT-2 Headquarters element, approximately 368 Marines and sailors strong, is stationed aboard Camp Ripper, Al Asad, Iraq. The base itself is located in the western region of Al Anbar province.

Col. H. Stacy Clardy III, RCT-2 commanding officer, is responsible for more than 6,000 Marines, sailors and soldiers under his command. RCT-2's area of operation, AO Denver, encompasses 30,000 square miles and half a million people. It's roughly the size of the state of South Carolina.

"When I arrived here in January (2007), this AO was one of the most dangerous places in Iraq – now it's not," Clardy said in a recent DoD press briefing. "If I were to characterize our situation here in western Al Anbar, I would simply say that we, the Iraqis and Americans, are now winning. And for us, winning is peace."

Success, however, doesn't happen overnight. Through the course of 2007, Iraqi Security Forces have steadily improved, inching closer and closer to self-sufficiency. AO Denver currently has 5,200 Iraqi Police, several hundred highway patrolmen



HIT, Iraq – U.S. Army soldiers with Task Force 2-7, which is based out of Fort Stewart, Ga., work with Iraqi Police to establish tactical checkpoints throughout the city. This followed the completion of Operation Shurta Nasir (Police Victory) which was both IP-led and conceived. Photo by Cpl. Adam Johnston

and 4,200 Iraqi Army soldiers.

"The Army brigades have grown 200 percent in the last seven months," Clardy said. "The Iraqi Police have also grown by 40 percent. This growth and improvements in Iraqi Security Forces highlights the commitment by the tribes to their own future alongside coalition forces and the Iraqi government."

Such a drastic increase in ISF numbers is directly attributable to a fundamental change in mindset by the local sheiks, and therefore, tribes.

"I can honestly say that the Iraqi leaders get it," Clardy said. "And by 'it,' I mean they know the only way to peace and prosperity is through a legitimate government, focused on the needs of the people and driven by the rule of law. They're tired of war. They want to move into the 21st century."

Likewise, the Marines of RCT-2 stepped up to the plate in support of their Iraqi counterparts. Six regimental-sized operations were conducted during the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based regiment's tour of duty: Operation Ean Nesir (Eagle Eye), Operation Shura Nasir (Police Victory), Operation Harris Ba'sil (Valiant Guardian), Operation Mawtini I, II & III (My Homeland) and Operation Fajr Jadeed (New Dawn).

As a result, there's been a dramatic change in the historical enemy activity of AO Denver; an overall 75 percent reduction in enemy incidents throughout the past 10 months.

"Right now, we see a ratio of 80 percent (improvised explosive device) finds and 20 percent IED attacks. Most of the caches we're finding now are old and crusty. The enemy's IEDs have gone from what we would consider military-grade ordnance, down to homemade explosives."

Formerly known as the "Wild West," the "Anbar awakening" has been well-publicized in the media. Some see the province as a model for the rest of Iraq. The question is: Can it be replicated?

"The one thing about Iraq is that every area is different," Clardy said. "It'd be very difficult to apply a cookie-cutter approach, particularly in this type of warfare. But can we learn from others? Absolutely. By studying what's going on in other parts of Iraq, these techniques could be applied."

Though progress has been made on RCT-2's watch, Clardy cautions the American public against claiming victory just yet.

"Make no mistake about it, we are still at war," Clardy said. "Al Qaeda still exists in AO Denver, if only through their minions. These extremists are committed to their illegitimate extremist views and undermining the path to peace. They are still driven to harm Americans and Iraqis alike."

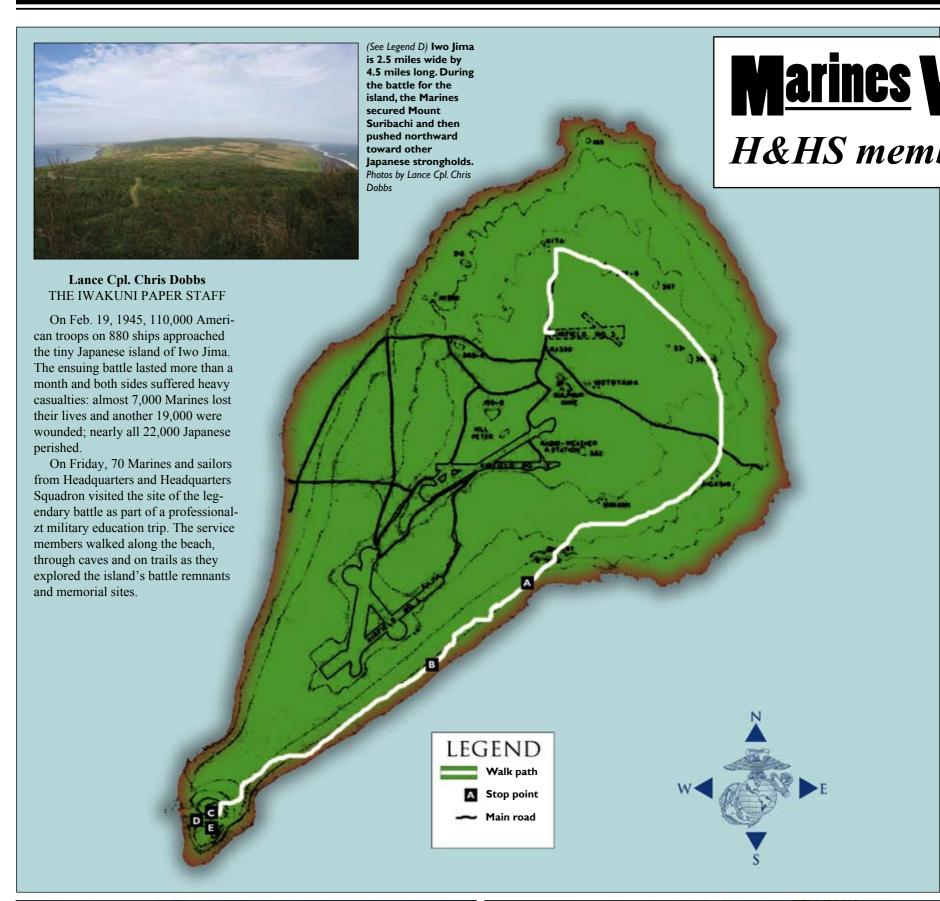
RCT-5, which is based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., will continue the fight in western Al Anbar. They are led by Col. Patrick J. Malay. RCT-2 is scheduled to return near the end of January.

Get your bowl on



In a contest to name the new station bowling center, I 5 station residents submitted the winning name "The Strike Zone" and will receive free lifetime open bowling privileges upon the facility's opening. (Winners from top left) Gunnery Sgt. Michael D.Archambault, Frank J. Meraz, Shelley A. Talley, Staff Sgt. Keith Phillips, Sgt. Albert Vidales, Nikki Smith, Debbie Crone, Cpl. Sherri Manning and Kate Cutshall. Not pictured were Bruce Merritt, Don West, Sgt. Patrick O'Brien, Derrick Hurd, Master Sgt. Peter Amato and John Gaddis. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

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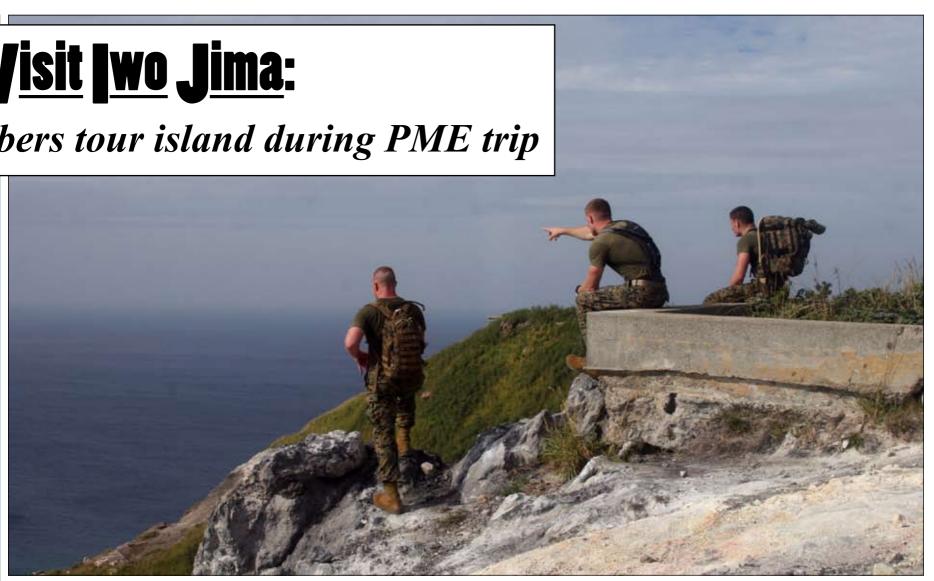






(See Legend E) A memorial dedicated to Marines from the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions (See Legend B) Provost Marshal's Office Marines collect sand from the shore where 70,000 of the Fifth Marine Amphibious Corps sits atop the 560-foot Mount Suribachi. Securing the Marines landed in 1945. The volcanic ash's loose, soft consistency made the assault difficult. heavily-fortified mountain was one of the Marines' first objectives during the battle.

Features



(Top) (See Legend E) Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air traffic controllers Lance Cpl. Ryan Albsmeyer (left), a native of Camp Point, Ill., and Cpls. Cameron Langland (middle), a native of DeSoto, Kan., and Esteban Ramirez, a native of Shidler, Okla., look toward the horizon from atop Mount Suribachi.

(Bottom) (See Legend A) Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron postal clerks Lance Cpls. Tyler Vandenberg and Michael Reed walk along the 4.5-mile road leading to Mount Suribachi.



AROUND THE CORPS

Marksmanship trainer helps Marines make good split-second decisions

Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti 11TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait (Jan. 12, 2008) -- Split second decisions made in combat can be the difference between life and death.

In an effort to sharpen their decision making abilities and improve reaction time, a detachment of Marines and sailors from Marine Air Control Group 38 attended tactical, shoot and don't shoot training at the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 here Jan. 12.

MACG-38 is attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 (REIN), Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego. HMM-166 (REIN) serves as the aviation combat element of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, Calif

The EST is an indoor simulated marksmanship training tool that replicates the look and feel of a real rifle and tracks the trajectory of fired rounds with computer sensors. The computer keeps track of where the shooter hits and how many times.

The MEU Marines and sailors faced multiple decision-making scenarios common to today's



Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 (REIN), I1th Marine Expeditionary Unit engage electronic targets Jan. 12 at the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, here. The MEU Marines and sailors faced multiple decision making scenarios common to today's military. The trainer forced the shooters to make decisions during room clearing, hostile protests, entry control point engagements and cordon and searches. Photos by: Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti

military. The trainer forced the shooters to make split-decisions during room clearing, hostile protests, entry control point engagements and cordon and searches

"The main purpose of the EST is to work on engagement skills," Staff Sgt. David Robinson, an infantryman and EST instructor with 1st Army, 72nd Field Artillery, 5th Brigade. "It teaches guys when to escalate force and how to react to being fired upon."

Sgt. Mario Perez, a field radio operator with HMM-166 (REIN), 11th MEU, said that practic-

ing escalation of force and rules of engagement is invaluable.

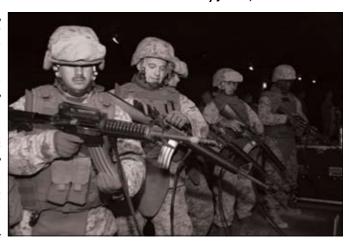
"When Marines get into theater, it's training like this that let's us act without hesitation," said Perez. In a real-world scenario, hesitation can cause death, he said.

Another strong point of the EST is that the diversity keeps the shooters from becoming complacent and creates muscle memory, something that might save a life in combat, said Robinson. "If they find themselves in one of the scenarios they have practiced, they will know what to do."



(Left) Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron I 66 (REIN), I I th Marine Expeditionary Unit use the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a simulated marksmanship trainer, to sharpen their decision making abilities in combat and build muscle memory Jan. I 2, here.

(Right) Sgt. Mario Perez, a field radio operator and other **Marines** Marine Medium with 166 (REIN), 11th Marine **Expeditionary** Unit. load magazines into simulated rifles Jan. 12 during a training session at the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, here. The EST is an simulated marksmanship training tool that replicates the look and feel of a real



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are comfortable with their weapons, it's time to put holes in targets. They begin with two days of practicing various shooting techniques and stances, spend one day doing prequalification, and on the final day qualify.

One military policeman here who recently re-qualified said he feels the opportunity to come to the ISAR helped him improve upon a skill necessary in his MOS and recommends others take advantage of the opportunity to put rounds downrange.

"That's basically (our) job," said Pfc. Mike M. McLaughlin, a native of Douglas, Ma. "If you get shipped out somewhere and you can't shoot, you're in trouble."

Marines who wish to become combat marksmanship coaches and

trainers can also become certified at the ISAR. According to Sgt. David W. Morse, Provost Marshal's Office accident investigator who also works at the ISAR as a CMC, becoming a coach was a great way to help both his fellow MPs and leathernecks from around the air station refine their shooting skills.

"I originally (became a coach) to help my old unit in Camp Lejeune," said Morse, a native of Calhoun, Ga. "When I came here to Japan, I continued because I enjoy helping the young Marines identify some problems they might not notice. You can really build confidence in somebody with their weapons abilities."

Editor's Note: For more information regarding pistol qualification or becoming a CMC or CMT, contact your unit S-3 shop or the ISAR at 253-5683.

Community Briefs

Community

In Memoriam

The air station lost a mother, wife and friend with the passing of Rosita Lashelle McDuffie at Iwakuni National Hospital Jan. 8. She was 37. Husband Master Sgt. Leroy McDuffie wishes to thank the community for its outpouring of support during a memorial service held at the Marine Memorial Chapel Jan. 10. He truly appreciates all that was done for his family during this difficult time, said Station Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. James Johnson, who presided over the service. Survivors include her two children, Ashley and Stephen Clark; two brothers, Michael and Anthony Fuller: and parents Irene Wilson and Joseph Evans.

MLK Birthday Meal

Roman Catholic

Today the Northside and R. G. Robinson mess halls will

provide a special lunch meal in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Commuted rations, civilian employees and family members pay \$3.85. Family members of E-4 and below pay a discount rate of \$3.30.

Branch Health Clinic Announcement

The Iwakuni Branch Health Clinic now has a one-stop automated answering system at 253-5571. For on-base medical emergencies, dial 911 or 21-7700 from off-base.

Telephone Office Service Hours

In order to better meet customer demand, the Station Telephone Office has changed its customer service window hours to the following: installations and service-8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Class B billing collections-8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Final bills still

require 24 hours to process and will be available the next working day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Station Telephone Office is open Mondays through Fridays. Call 253-5555 for more information.

Free Child **Development Screening**

Education and Developmental Intervention Services will be doing free child development screenings for children under 5 years old Feb. 13-15 at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School. Child specialists will answer questions and evaluate major areas of children's growth. For more information, call EDIS at 253-4562.

2008 Seabee Ball

March 7, 6 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom. Uniform is Dress Blues. More details including ticket prices and point of sale information will be announced at the beginning of February. For more information, call 253-5637.

3rd Annual Far East Furniture Auction

February 2, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom for all status of forces agreement (SOFA)-status residents. Complimentary appetizers, cash bar, silent and live auction will be held. Cash checks and credit cards accepted. All proceeds to benefit Officer Spouses Club Scholarship Fund. For more information, call 253-2896.

The 18th Iwakuni Area Solo and Ensemble Contest

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Iwakuni Civic Hall. The free event features high school and adult solo and ensemble categories. For more information, contact the Yamaguchi Prefecture Brass Band Association, Iwakuni Branch (Iwakuni Sogo High School, Komatsu) 0827-31-6155.

MCCS

Moonlight Bowling

Moonlight Bowling is every Saturday at the Bowling Center here beginning at 6 p.m. There is a \$25 money shot at the end of each game and a progressive jackpot at the end of all three games. For more details, call 253-3495.

SWEAT Program

(Strength, Wellness Education and Aerobic Training) This program is designed to help active duty personnel. The program includes a MicroFit Assessment, weekly weigh-ins (by request), monthly body fat testing, weight management lectures, President's Challenge entry and attendance and progress tracking reports. For more information, call 253-5051.

SWEATE

(Strength, Wellness Education & Aerobic Training for Everyone) This program is designed to help anyone interested in achieving total fitness. The program includes body fat assessment and weekly weigh-ins (by request), President's Challenge entry and attendance and progress tracking reports. SWEATE incorporates the four components of total fitness. For more information. call 253-5051.

All-Marine Rugby

Semper Fit is seeking players and a coach for the women's All-Marine team. Call 253-3067 for information.

Massage Services

IronWorks Gym has seven massage therapists on staff providing a wide variety of massage services including full body, facial, hands, feet, prenatal, Shiatsu, Thai, Swedish, deep tissue, therapeutic, lymphatic and Seitai massage. For more information, call

Lydia at 253-3696. Call 253-6359 to make an appointment.

Adventure

Mt. Jodoji in Onomichi City The Gansu Hiking Club is scheduled to host a visit to Mt. Jodoji (178m) in Onomichi City Sunday. Hikers will meet at JR Onomichi Station at 9:45 a.m. for the free event. The sign-up deadline is today. Applicants should be made via e-mail and should include a direct contact num-

ber for Hirosan Hiroyama, the

Gansu Network point of con-

tact. Hirosan's e-mail address

is hirosanfromhiroshima@

hotmail.com

Information is courtesy of the Gansu Network, a network of Gansu hikers. For more information, visit the Gansu Network Web site at http:// gansunetwork.spaces.live.com

Maron-no-Sato, Winter Festival

The 10 a.m. festival in Kuritani-cho, Otake City, is scheduled for Sunday and will host a first-come, first-serve baked oyster tasting and rice cake-making. Local Otake City farm products will be sold along with Udon (Japanese noodle). For more information, contact Maron-no-Sato by calling 0827-55-0055.

Momotesai Ceremony

The age-old Miyajima ceremony kicks off at 11 a.m. Sunday and celebrates the year's first use of the bow and arrow at the Ohmoto Shrine. The ceremony includes a bow and arrow reenactment and is free of charge. For planning and history-related information, contact the Miyajima Tourist Association by calling 0829-44-2011.

Information is courtesy of the Miyajima Tourist Association. For information on future events, visit the MTA Web site at http://www.miyajima. or.jp/miyakan2/ibent/festivalsandevents.htm

Military OneSource boasts free tax help

Military OneSource will provide free tax preparation services to service members and their families for the 2007 tax season

Key features of this online service include:

• Simplicity: Access the program through the Military OneSource Web site. The program will guide you through the required forms and documents.

- Easy transfer of 2006 tax information: H&R Block office, TaxCut Online or Tax Cut desktop-made tax information easily transferred for 2007.
- · Help from experts: consultants available 24/7.

To access these free servic-

es, users must be registered to the Military OneSource Web site and logged in.

Military OneSource can also help you help tame tax stress with expert advice on planning, issues specific to service members and sound ways to use your refund. Call 1-800-342-9647 or visit Military OneSource online at www.militaryonesource.com.

4:30 p.m. Saturday Confession 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass 9:45 a.m. Religious Education **Protestant** 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Sunday 10:30 a.m. Protestant Service Spanish Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study **Church of Christ** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Chapel Services

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

Praver

Shabbat

Islamic Friday

Jewish Friday

Noon

6:00 p.m.

Teen Programs

For times, call 253-5183: high school meetings, junior high meetings, HS and JR Bible studies, retreats, service projects, mission trips, special events volunteer training and mentoring, parent support groups.

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

The Iwakuni Paper

Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1995 HONDA Odessey - Mini van. Asking \$900 OBO, JCI until February 2008. 5-door/green. Heater and A/C works great. Van is in good condition. PCS-ing soon, must sell. Any inquiries, please contact 253-2382.

1994 Mazda Eunos - 2-door. Asking \$1,800 OBO. JCI until April 2009. PWR windows, locks and sunroof. Kenwood CD player, Cold A/C, gasoline engine, automatic. Approx. 77,000 km. For more information, call work 253-3993 or home 253-2920.

1996 Toyota Ipsum - 4-door, 8-passenger. Asking \$2,700 OBO. JCI until Aug. 2009. CD player, AM/FM radio. For more information, please contact home 253-2702 or work 253-5385.

1991 Toyota Corolla - 4-door sedan. Asking \$1,000 OBO. JCI until May 23, 2009. Stick shift. No A/C. For more information, call work 253-3005 or home 253-2149

1987 Nissan Homy Van - 3-door, 8-passenger.

Asking \$1,700 OBO. JCI until May 2009. PWR windows, mirrors, locks and rear sun roof. Also has flip-up front sun/moon roof, Kenwood CD player, swivel rear seats, new fuel pump and tires, diesel engine. Runs good. Selling due to ERD. For more information, call home 253-2920 or work 253-3993.

1994 Honda Integra - 4-door sedan. Asking \$1,500 OBO. JCI until May 2009. CD player, AM/FM radio. For more information please contact home 253-2702 or work 253-5385

JOB OPENINGS

CHRO - The following job announcements are available at Civilain Human Resources Office, Building One, Room 104:

- •Training & Curriculum Specialist, GS-1701-09
- •Recreation Assistant, GS-0189-05
- •Management & Program Analyst, GS-0343-09/11
- •Store Worker (Intermittent), WG-6914-04 For more information, contact CHRO at 253-3455

OTHER ITEMS

Bowflex for sale - Gently used bowflex for sale. Includes leg attachment. Asking \$350 OBO. Please call cell 080-3402-3737 for information or to see

Beautiful Chase Lounge for Sale - Great condition (two minor flaws). Paid \$800 for it six months ago. Asking \$400 OBO. For more information, call home 253-7790

Items For Sale - For more information, call 253-5183. Sony Video Camera, Skyline shocks, two subs with box and amp, Coleman grill from the Leatherneck Depot (bought new for \$180 - mid-rise approved), car video screens.

Items For Sale - For more information, call work 253-5487 or home 253-2764.

- •Sony CDP-C445 5-disc CD player -\$50
- •Boston Acoustics T-1000 home audio speakers
- •Carver TFM-35x 2-channel amplifier -\$550
- •Carver CT-3EX preamp/tuner with phono stage
- •Conrad-Johnson SA250 2-channel amplifier \$600
- •Conrad-Johnson SA250 2-channel amplifier \$600
- •Technics SL-1200Mk2 turntable \$350
- •Technics SLQ-200 turntable with Grado \$175

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classifieds link on the station Web site and open an advertisement request form. Submit the form via e-mail at IWKN SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil or in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216. Please submit your request at least one week prior to the date when you want to post it.

Weekly Messhall Menu

Monday

Cream of Mushroom Soup, Creole Soup, Sauerbraten, Hot and Spicy Chicken, Fried Rice, Oven Glo Potatoes Fried Zucchini Calico Corn Hot Dinner Rolls Congo Bars Marble Cake Double Layer **Butter Cream Frosting** Blueberry Crunch Specialty Bar: Pasta Bar

Tuesday

Cream of Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Southern Fried Chicken, BBQ Beef Cube, Steamed Rice, Buttered Pasta, Black Eye Peas Creole Squash Corn Bread Chocolate Chip Cookies Spice Cake Double Layer **Butter cream Frosting** Lemon Meringue Pie Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

Wednesday

Cream of Broccoli Soup, Vegetable Soup, Tempura Fish, Pepper Steak, Steamed Rice, Oven Glo Potatoes. Glazed Carrots, Club Spinach Brown Gravv Dinner Rolls Peanut Butter Cookies Devil's Food Cake **Butter Cream Frosting** Specialty Bar: Barbecue

Thursday

Minestrone Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup, Creole Macaroni, Fried Shrimp Fettuccini W/ Alfredo Sauce Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tempura Vegetables Peas and Carrots Dinner Rolls, Sugar Cookies Strawberry Shortcake Whipped Topping Vanilla Cream Pie Specialty Bar: Deli

Friday

Clam Chowder Soup, Minestrone Soup, Braised Beef and Noodles, Baked Fish Mashed Potatoes Fried Cabbage Mix Vegetables Chicken Gravy, Dinner Rolls Banana Bread Dutch Apple Pie **Shortbread Cookies** Specialty Bar: Hot Dogs/Polish Sausage

MCTV Movie Schedule

Wednesday

2:00 AM John Tucker Must Die PG13 5:00 AM Little Man PG13 11:00 AM 300 R John Tucker Must Die PG13 2:00 PM 5:00 PM Little Man PG13 8:00 PM Waist Deep R 11:00 PM 300 R Thursday

2:00 PM

8:00 PM

2:00 AM Fountain, The PG13 5:00 AM Sunshine R 11:00 AM Benchwarmers, The PG13 2:00 PM Fountain, The PG13 5:00 PM Sunshine R 8:00 PM Fracture R 11:00 PM Benchwarmers, The PG13 2:00 AM Basic Instinct 2 R DOA - Dead or Alive PG13 5:00 AM Walking Tall - Lone Justice R 11:00 AM

Editor's Note: MCTV movies can be viewed on Channel 20.

Basic Instinct 2 R

DOA - Dead or Alive PG13

You Me and Dupree PG13

Sakura Theater



Timothy Oly-

Agent 47 work-

Agency" in this

action thriller.

phant plays

ing for "The

Sat 7:00 p.m. Sun 4:00 p.m.

Hitman (R)

Fri 10:00 p.m.

August Rush (PG) Fri 7:00 p.m. Sat I:00 p.m. Mon 4:00 p.m.

The Bucket List (PG-13) Sat 4:00 p.m. Sun 1:00 p.m. Mon 1:00 p.m.



This Sci-Fi thriller is based on the popular novel by Stephen King about a freak storm.

The Mist (R) Sat 10:00 p.m. Sun 7:00 p.m. Thu 7:00 p.m.

National Treasure(PG) Sun 7:00 p.m.

Charlie Wilson's War (R) Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Lions For Lambs Wed 7:00 p.m.

Commvicts knock off Hitmen 14-12

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

With two minutes left, on fourth and goal from the opponent's 35-yard line, Hitmen quarterback Ross Cooley tried to keep his team alive. Down by 8, the Hitmen desperately needed a score.

As Cooley dropped back, his head swiveled from left to right, his eyes scanning the field for an open receiver. But - as was the case most of the game - he couldn't find one.

So Cooley took off running. While he looked quick all night, tearing through the open field and spinning to avoid the outstretched arms of his opponents, this time a far greater sense of urgency could be seen in each bursting step. He ran down the middle, then left, then, as he ran out of field, cut back right, making a beeline for the corner of the end zone. His head held high, his body propelling him ever faster toward the pylon, nothing was going to stop him. He was at the 10, the five, the two ...

There, one lone player stood in his way and the Hitmen's hopes of a championship run – Communicts quarterback, receiver and cornerback Rinwick Castin.

With his feet firmly planted in the soft ground and his weight evenly balanced, Castin was in position and poised to make the stop. With one casual swipe, he tore off Cooley's flags and dashed the Hitmen's dreams.

The Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 communications Commvicts edged past the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 supply Hitmen 14-12 in an intramural football playoff game at the Northside field here Monday.

The win put the Commvicts (7-11) two games away from the championship game while eliminating the Hitmen (8-10) from the playoffs.

"Holding the lead was important," said Castin reflecting on the significance of preventing Cooley from scoring.

"It was a great defensive performance by the whole team," he added.

On the sideline, a dejected Cooley gently kicked the ground as he thought about what might have been

"I thought I was going to be able to turn the cor-



Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 communications Commvicts quarterback Rinwick Castin looks downfield as he is pursued by Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 supply Hitmen defensive lineman Bradley Gutierrez during an intramural football playoff game at the Northside field here Monday. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

ner," said Cooley. "But I got stopped."

Following the stop, the Commvicts took over from their own 2-yard line. With less than two minutes to go, they surprisingly continued to put the ball in the air. Then, on third down, Commvicts quarterback Levander Gibson's long pass was picked off.

Two plays later, with 58 seconds left, Cooley connected with wide receiver Bradley Gutierrez over the middle for a 25-yard touchdown pass to make it 14-12. The entire Hitmen sideline leaped into the air with their hands high above their heads.

The Hitmen had to go for 2. They clapped their hands as they came out of the huddle and took their positions.

"Hut, hut, hike,"

Cooley dropped back, turned his body left then back to the right. He pulled his arm back and sent the ball to the right side of the end zone. The ball hit wide receiver Troy Brooks' arms, but the defensive coverage was smothering and he couldn't pull it in.

Brooks wanted a pass interference call, but the refs didn't budge.

On the following possession, the Commvicts were yet again unable to run out the clock. Forced to punt, they gave the Hitmen one final chance with 16 seconds remaining. But Cooley's Hail Mary attempt was picked off by Castin.

"We weren't on the same page," Cooley said about his inability to connect with his receivers.

"We wanted this real bad," he added.

Meanwhile, Castin was optimistic about the Commvicts' chances of going all the way in the playoffs.

"If we play defense like we did tonight, we have a great chance. Watch out for the Commvicts."

Summary	1	2	Total
MALS-12	0	12	12
MWSS-171	7	7	14

1st Half

9:10 MWSS-171 Davis 30-yard pass from Castin (Nelson 3-yd pass from Castin)

2nd Half

15:58 *MALS-12 Brooks 20-yard pass from Cooley*

13:03 MWSS-171 Evans 15-yard pass from Gibson (Castin 3-yd pass from Gibson).

:59 MALS-12 Gutierrez 25-yard pass from Cooley

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

Marine Lounge Pool Tournament

Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Marine Lounge hosts its weekend pool tournament every Saturday, Sunday and holiday at 2 p.m. Saturdays are nine-ball tournaments and Sundays are eight-ball tournaments. There is a \$5 entry fee. Cash prizes are awarded to first and second places.

YOGA DAY USA

Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Attend the 2008 Yoga Day USA Activity Workshop. The workshop is for everyone regardless of age, body type or fitness level. No previous registration required. Yoga mats, blocks and stretch bands available. Feel free to bring your own supplies. Please bring a towel and water bottle.

Powerlifting Brief

Jan. 26, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Prepare for the Open Bench Press Competition March 22, or just learn how to safely increase your strength in six weeks. Attend the brief to learn the powerlifting techniques used by national powerlifting competitors. The brief will be held in the Wellness Room at IronWorks Gym. Sign up by Jan. 23 by calling 253-5051, or send an email to williamsi@usmc-mccs.mil.

INVITATIONAL RAQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Semper Fit's Intramural/Varsity Sports will host an Invitational Racquetball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym racquetball courts. For further information, contact Intramural/Varsity Sports at 253-3067.



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Liberty Risk quarterback Jason Caporaso pitches the ball to running back Jason Etienne in an intramural football playoff game at the Northside field here Saturday. The Risk defeated the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 Lancers 13-6, advancing to the next round of the playoffs. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Liberty Risk escapes Lancers 13-6

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

With a balanced offensive attack, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Liberty Risk (15-1) knocked off the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 Lancers (8-9) 13-6 to advance to the semifinal round of the intramural football playoffs at the Northside field here Saturday.

H&HS running back Jason Etienne led his team with two rushing touchdowns to put the Risk one game away from the championship.

Following H&HS's score on its opening drive, the Lancers struck back with an efficiently executed offensive plan led by quarterback John Helm. Helm marched his team to the end zone, by picking apart H&HS's defense with short play-action passes.

In the second half, H&HS closed the gaps in its defense, forcing Helm to hesitate. The new strategy gave time for Risk linebackers to close in on the pocket and sack Helm.

With the short pass no longer an option, Helm took shots deep downfield, which were generally unsuccessful.

H&HS cornerback Derrick Hart came up big for the Risk on Helm's Hail Mary attempt to the right sideline at the end of the game. Hart timed his jump perfectly to break up the pass before it got to its intended receiver.

"Don't throw it to my side," a pumped-up Hart said intensely after the play.

Following the game, a frustrated Helm confidently told his team that all the loss meant was a slightly harder route to the championship.

"(Liberty Risk) can't touch us on a dry track," said Helm, referring to the field's muddy condition.

The Lancers weren't the only players struggling on the wet turf. Etienne said making plays on both sides of the ball was difficult.

"We were slipping all over the place. We couldn't even run. It was really hard to defend a player in a one-on-one situation."

H&HS looks to continue its trek toward the championship with a win against Combat Logistics Company 36 Monday.

"We're going to take it one game at a time and do the same thing we've been doing," said Caporaso.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 Lancers quarterback John Helm is tackled by Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Liberty Risk lineman Gregory Joseph as he sends a pass downfield during an intramural football playoff game at the Northside field here Saturday. Helm led the Lancers to a touchdown early in the game, but it was not enough as the Risk won 13-6.

Summary 1	2	Total
H&HS 13	0	13
VMFA-212 6	0	6

1st Half

17:58 H&HS Etienne 5-yard run 10:16 VMFA-212 Higgins 15-yard pass from Helm 4:14 H&HS Etienne 10-yard run (Caporaso 3-yard run)

Passing (Comp-Att-Int) HHS: M. Caporaso (8-13-1) VMFA-212: J. Helm (13-27-2)

