

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Friday, February 22, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



DIGITAL WARRIORS Resembling a modern role-playing video game, a screen grab from Training and Education Command's (TECOM) newly-implemented Virtual Battlefield Systems II software simulates chaotic combat scenarios in a pixelated environment for trainees and veterans alike. The software made its debut at the Indoor Small Arms Range (ISAR) here Feb. 12 and is described by ISAR personnel to be "closest to the real thing." Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

ISAR takes training into 21st century

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Indoor Small Arms Range personnel and representatives from station units were trained on the use of a new prototype Marine Corps system at the ISAR here last week.

Deployable Virtual Training Environment (DVTE) is a newly developed

interface that simulates many aspects of combat scenarios in a first-person view and was unveiled by combined arms staff trainers for future implementation on the station.

"We're bringing the training capabilities of Camp Pendleton to the Pacific region inside a virtual world, running entire campaigns with tangible results," said Jesse A. Kindelspire, a DVTE simulation analyst

from Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Kindelspire described the computer environment to be an anything-is-possible tool for combat training with as many as eight different areas of specialty. Its capabilities range from simulating convoy operations with Virtual Battlefields System II software to teaching language

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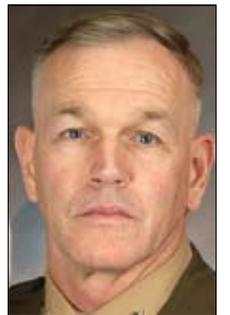
Period of reflection directed for SOFA personnel

IWAKUNI PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

To ensure all Status of Force Agreement (SOFA) status personnel understand their roles as ambassadors of the United States in Japan, Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases Japan, on Feb. 20 directed all SOFA status personnel to observe a period of reflection, limiting off-base activities of a personal and recreational nature.

All SOFA status personnel permanently or temporarily assigned to Iwakuni, Camp Fuji, and Okinawa, Japan, or who are transiting through these locations in a TAD/TDY/leave status, will observe a period of reflection until further notice. SOFA status personnel includes all United States armed forces personnel, DOD civilians, DOD invited contractors, and their respective family members.

During this time of reflection, all SOFA status personnel movements are limited to the following: place of duty; place of employment; place of worship; place of education; place of medical, dental or veterinary treatment; airports (for the purpose of picking up or dropping off passengers or for authorized travel); all on-base facilities to transit between one's authorized residence, including off-base housing, and any



Lt. Gen. Zilmer

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Clinic describes intercultural medical care

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In the past few weeks a number of station residents have been transported to the Iwakuni Clinical Center for medical care. Many residents may be fearful about what to expect if they ever need to

be sent off base for medical attention. If you are concerned, here are a few points to consider:

- Japanese medicine is very simple, thorough and efficient. Their standards of care are no different than ours, according to Navy Lt. Shanon Toth, Iwakuni Branch Health Clinic urgent care and military

medicine officer-in-charge.

- Patients will be taken off-base for anything the Iwakuni Branch Health Clinic cannot provide, such as MRIs, CAT scans, diagnostic tests, IV antibiotics or surgeries.

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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 Approach 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 may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to IWKN_SMBI-wakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil.

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Department of Defense (DOD) installation via privately owned vehicles, military supported transportation, and commercial taxi; currently scheduled community relations projects.

"My intention is to utilize the time within this period of reflection to review all appropriate plans, procedures, orders and regulations governing the conduct of all SOFA status personnel serving in Okinawa, Camp Fuji, and Iwakuni, Japan," said Zilmer. "Recent highly reported incidents involving U.S. service personnel serving in Japan warrant measures be taken until such time as to bring an incremental return to a more normal state of affairs. I need leaders at all echelons in all services to help reinforce what the vast majority do well as forward serving ambassadors of America, while we collectively police our ranks to identify those few individuals who would destroy our good standing and reputation with the

Japanese people. I fully intend to demonstrate our commitment to exemplary community relations that appropriately capture the professionalism and good will of the American people. Thank you for your understanding and patience during these difficult times. Your overwhelmingly superb behavior and exemplary conduct is not lost on any of your leaders who remain intensely proud of your service and patriotism. Thank you for all you do and for being who you are."

Exceptions to this policy are delegated to the O-6 level commanders to approve pre-existing and pre-registered obligations or special events on a case-by-case basis.

This is a punitive order and as such violation of this order by armed forces personnel can result in punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. All other SOFA status personnel including family members are reminded they are subject to the full range of administrative sanctions including loss of command sponsorship and debarment.

Friendship Day 2008 rules and regulations

DISTRIBUTED BY STATION
PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The first deadline is submitting a unit or private organization's consumable or non-consumable report to the Provost Marshal's Office by March 28. PMO cannot accept any reports after that date.

Any unit or private organization that intends to sell any consumable items at

Friendship Day 2008 or non-consumables must take steps to get approval from the Provost Marshal's Office.

For more information, contact Sgt. Stephen J. Benjamin (stephen.j.benjamin@usmc.mil) or Gunnery Sgt. Brett D. Hawn at (brett.d.hawn@usmc.mil) Customs and Immigration, Building 779. Call 253-5418 or 253-3303. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We are each other's 'keeper'

LT. CMDR. DENNIS COX
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many of us are reeling from the misconduct that seems to plague Marine Forces Pacific which has caused leadership to respond by holding ethical stand downs, periods of reflections and other classes where all the Marines and sailors in MARFORPAC are required to attend. It can be frustrating sometimes when someone else's behavior impacts our lives and requires us to be disciplined. Why do I have to go through a class, or why do I have to stay on base just because someone else got into trouble? This is not a new question however.

In the Bible we see a story of two brothers who were vastly different. One of the brothers asks a similar question when he is asked where his brother is. His response is not too different from ours when he responds, "I don't know where he is. Am I my brother's keeper?" This story of Cain and Abel shows us how long this issue of being each other's keeper goes back.

Needless to say, we are each others "keeper." We are responsible for each other's behavior. We need to look out for each other and make sure we are each holding up the standards of our core values.

So the next time you have to go through another period of reflection and you get mad because they are the result of another's misconduct, remember that you are your brother's keeper, and it is part of your responsibility to look after and keep others in line. God held Cain responsible for Abel, and He will hold us responsible for each other as well.

STEP 1: Secondary Marine holds nail while primary Marine strikes nail with hammer.

STEP 2: Primary Marine strikes nail with Sledge Hammer.



-Engineers: They always Skip STEP 1 -



Youzou Yoshii, Iwakuni Police Department security chief, accepts an award from Capt. Giuseppe Stavale, station provost marshal, during a ceremony at the Provost Marshal's Office here Feb. 13. Yoshii, who has been a member of the department for one year, received the award for his professionalism and dedication to ensuring force readiness and strong relations between Japanese and U.S. personnel. Photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Kauppila

TRAINING FROM PAGE 1

and cultural essentials with Tactical Language and Culture Training Systems (TLCTS) software, preparing Marines on essentially every aspect of their upcoming deployment.

"The system allows units that lack the time and equipment to meet the same training objectives as they would in a perfect world," Kindelspire added.

But the equipment isn't something entirely new to the Marine Corps. Virtual Battlefields System I software made its debut in the mid 1990s, training Marines in technical areas including light armored vehicle (LAV) operations and flight simulations. The equipment was quickly outdated, according to Kindelspire. Virtual Battlefields Systems II software goes further in depth, recreating certain aspects of combat such as hostage situations, escalation-of-force procedures and battalion-sized movement.

"In the new software, any number of enemy combatants or type of maneuver is possible to simulate for the Marines plugged in," Kindelspire said. "There is lit-

erally no limit to the amount of scenarios we're able to generate."

While being trained on eliminating cyber assailants, the ISAR trainees also learned cultural basics using the TLCTS software.

"TLCTS is one of the most severely underutilized applications in the DVTE simulator," said Kindelspire. "I've seen Marines that have used this software become fluent in another language over the course of a few months."

The TLCTS software simulates social interaction with other nations' inhabitants including Iraqi, Pashto, French and Dari people. Trainees are able to receive detailed reactions and responses with the software's voice recognition feature and can monitor the sensitivity of the simulated conversation via their computer monitor.

The software isn't only available through the DVTE system. By visiting the TLCTS Web site at <http://www.tacticalanguage.com>, service members can download their own constantly updated copy of the cultural knowledge free of charge. However, Virtual Battlefields System II

software is not readily available for download and can only be administered by trained DVTE specialists. Kindelspire said unit participation in DVTE simulations requires the training of a unit representative to assist in the administering before sending unit members to be trained using the system. Excluding unit deployment program (UDP) squadrons, every unit aboard the air station is eligible to send representatives trained to administer the DVTE equipment and can begin training immediately.

The implementation of training in a simulated environment is expected to evoke doubts in its effectiveness, according to DVTE representatives. ISAR personnel can testify to its tactical fidelity versus the training using the real thing.

"This is an easy opportunity for Iwakuni Marines to walk away from this place with the same amount of training they would have gotten at a base with ground forces," said Cpl. Kevin S. Martin, an ISAR instructor who recently finished a tour of duty as a rifleman in an infantry unit. "In the Marine Corps, most end up doing many different jobs outside their (military

occupation specialty). This software can train a Marine to perform basic tasks for any job within an infantry unit while at the same time teaching them about the environment they're traveling to. It's breakthrough technology."

But some ISAR personnel expressed a different view of the systems.

"This training should in no way replace real training Marines should receive," said Sgt. Patrick T. O'Brien, ISAR operations chief. "Iwakuni lacks the real equipment to train their Marines like they do in other areas, so a lot of Marines miss their opportunity to get the real training. It's disappointing to think because we have no ground forces here that we shouldn't have to be prepared for those types of operations."

Kindelspire expressed the importance of the virtual training working in tandem with physical combat training.

"DVTE is an ever-evolving system, but it will never give us the type of results that come from the real thing," Kindelspire said. "We hope to come as close as possible so that every Marine has a chance to get any training he can from it."



(Top) Indoor Small Arms Range personnel examine the simulated interior of a light armored vehicle (LAV) brought to them by Combined Arms Staff Training representatives. (Below) John W. Lynch, a Deployable Virtual Training Environment simulation analyst, configures a battlefield scenario before commencing his large-scale demonstration of the new software.

News Briefs

Special Commissary Hours

Due to the arrival of new cash registers, the commissary will have one week of altered store hours. Regular store hours will resume Sunday.
Store Hours:
Today: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sophie Furniture Sale

March 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and March 2, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the M.C. Perry cafeteria. Status of Forces Agreement personnel only. No strollers allowed, no food or drinks, and shoes must be off around rugs. Volunteers are also needed for set up Feb. 29. To sign up or for additional information, call 253-4525.

Scholarships: MOAA

The Military Officers Association of America is pleased to offer the Base/Post Scholarships again this year. This MOAA program provides grants of \$1,000 each to twenty-five dependent children of military personnel. The application must be submitted prior to March 3. For more information, visit the program's Web site at www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund.

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- Ambulance, EMT crews will stay with patients until they are admitted to the hospital.
- Upon admission, patients will be provided with a care package which includes basic hygiene items, cups and utensils since these items are not provided by the hospital.
- Unlike most American hospitals, patients could be roomed with up to four to six people.
- Base medical staff will visit patients regularly and keep their family and unit updated on their status.
- A translator travels with American medical staff. Patients will be provided a sheet of common Japanese phrases for use when medical staff/translator is not available.
- Pajamas, televisions and refrigerators are provided for an hourly/daily fee. Pajamas or a robe are 60 yen per day. TVs and refrigerators may be rented by purchasing a 1000 yen prepaid card (100 yen per hour). Tricare does not allow the Branch Health Clinic to pay for those types of charges.
- The hospital has a barber shop, laundry mat, ATM, coffee shop and public telephones.
- Patients will be provided with a point of contact sheet that includes numbers to medical/base staff. Patients will also be provided with instructions on how to use the Japanese green public telephones as well as a map which includes directions to the hospital.
- Visiting hours are 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. during weekdays and 10 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. Exceptions are made for children and patients with severe illnesses. Visitors need to bring yen for hospital



Iwakuni Branch Health Clinic patients will be taken off base for anything the clinic cannot provide, such as MRIs, CAT scans, diagnostic tests, IV antibiotics or surgeries. Family members and unit representatives will be notified and kept up to date on the patients' condition by clinic staff. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

parking fees.

- Base clinic urgent care is open 24 hours, seven days a week. If you feel your needs are not being met at the hospital, call the clinic and the staff will ensure you are taken care of.
- Patients will be provided with a packet which includes the above information.

The biggest difference between Japanese and American medical care is the country's languages, according to Toth. "The language barrier is difficult," said Toth. "But, with a little patience, you'll

find you're going to get the same care that you have come to expect in American hospitals."

If you have any questions concerning off-base medical care, contact the Branch Health Clinic (Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic) at 253-3183.

Upon admission to an off-base facility, patients will be provided with a care package which includes basic hygiene items, cups and utensils.



Different strokes

Tsunami Youth Swim Team coaches ready team for victory, future

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Attending one of the Tsunami Swim Team's many practices reveals not only some Marines' commitment during their after-duty hours but also a glimpse of Iwakuni's ever-growing division of aspiring young athletes.

The team, which consists of 30 of the station's best swimmers ages five to 10, is currently in preparation of upcoming tournaments, where they will go head to head with swimmers from throughout Japan.

A Yokota tournament in April is what the team has to look forward to during these wintry weeks of routine swim sessions and school. The coaches take it into account – with 95 percent of the team members on the A-B Honor Roll for the entirety of their year-round season. Maj. Tal Jackson, Tsunami Swim Team head coach, touched on his training schedule that focuses on building strong and capable bodies as well as minds.

"These children are eager for the opportunity to compete," Jackson said during a swim practice Feb. 14. "Knowing the children have a lot of energy, we train them hard. A tournament takes a valid effort from everyone, so we stress teamwork as well."

The swimmers undergo countless laps during their



Maj. Tal Jackson, Tsunami Youth Swim Team head coach, guides young swimmers through a routine swim lesson at the IronWorks Gym pool here Feb. 14. They are training for an April tournament in Yokota. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

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evening practices, working to perfect their strokes and diving technique under the eyes of their instructors. The heavy workload is a rewarding one, according to Lance Cpl. Nick M. Bondi, the team's newest trainer.

"It's hard to explain the feeling you get when you help a kid improve on something," said Bondi. "Most of them don't even realize that we're pushing them hard until they see results and become proud of what they accomplished."

Bondi is returning to the pool as a coach after being a member of the team nearly 11 years ago when his father was stationed here. While he is preparing for a deployment to South Korea in March, Bondi said he is committed to spending time at the pool with the team.

"I think that if these children see that I was once where they are at now, they are going to get inspired to grow in their abilities," Bondi said. "I like the idea of being a role model for them."

The coaches' efforts are paying off. Jacob R. McNeely, 7, whose swimming career started last year, said the coaches did a good job helping him overcome his fear of the diving board.

"I'm not afraid of jumping anymore," said the young swimmer. "My first tournament was horrible for me. (Jackson) taught me to keep swimming even though I get tired. I hope to keep swimming with him because he's my favorite coach."

Thanks to Marine Corps Community Services Aquatics, many swimmers are taking advantage of the opportunity to compete and overcome challenges. Rebecca D. Streat, mother of swimmer Cacee K. Streat, said joining up was free of charge and only took a trip to MCCA Aquatics, located in the IronWorks Gym, to sign some papers.

"The only thing we had to buy was goggles and a bathing suit," said Streat, who recently arrived here from Quantico, Va. where Cacee swam for the Quantico Sharks. "In the U.S., we couldn't find a swim team for our daughter to join that was less than \$1,000 per month. When we found that Cacee could swim here for free and be a part of this team, we were thrilled."

For more information on the Tsunami Swim Team, contact MCCA Aquatics by calling 253-3678.

(Right) Lance Cpl. Nick M. Bondi, a Tsunami Youth Swim Team coach, advises a young swimmer on his stroke method during a swim lesson. (Below) Lance Cpl. Michael D. Sweeney, a Tsunami Youth Swim Team coach, smiles as he avoids a playful flipper slap from Cacee K. Streat during a swim lesson at the IronWorks Gym pool here. Photos by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez





Marines fast rope out of a CH-46 Sea Knight and onto the deck of MV 1st Lt. Alex Bonnyman Feb. 8 during Vessel Board, Search and Seizure training. The ship was suspected of carrying suspicious cargo. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Knallay

ABOARD THE MV 1ST LT ALEX BONNYMAN, OKINAWA, Japan (Feb. 15, 2008) A group of role players took control of the ship MV 1st Lt. Alex Bonnyman (T-AK 3003) when they threw the captain and the crew overboard during a training exercise Feb. 8.

Shortly after an ally's ship rescued the drifting crew, Marines and sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Contingency Force responded to the

simulated seizure. Within hours, two AH-1W Super Cobras and one UH-1N Huey with scout snipers onboard began to circle the ship. Six more helicopters with more Marines rapidly approached the ship.

This scene aboard the Bonnyman was part of a Vessel Board, Search and Seizure exercise involving 31st MEU Marines and sailors Feb. 4-8.

The MCF, taught by instructors with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training

Group, trained to take control of vessels that may be transporting drugs, weapons and wanted personnel. Ships violating blockades may also be boarded by the force.

After the Cobras and Huey arrived on scene, the rest of the MCF followed in four CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters and two CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters. The team then fast-rope onto the Bonnyman's deck.

Once aboard, the MCF secured the ship. While doing so, they took 16 role players, acting as the occupiers, into



Petty Officer 2nd Class David Gomez Hernandez, a member of the prize crew, climbs aboard the MV 1st Lt. Alex Bonnyman to take the ship's controls Feb. 8 during Vessel Board, Search and Seizure training. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Knallay

AROUND THE CORPS

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit retakes stolen vessel during training

LANCE CPL. KEVIN M. KNALLAY
31st MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

"The MCF ... trained to take control of vessels that may be transporting drugs, weapons and wanted personnel. Ships violating blockades may also be boarded by the force."

custody. After the team searched and interrogated the detainees, a rescued crew member told the Marines about four suspicious boxes loaded onto the ship and the plan to load them onto a speed boat farther out to sea.

While clearing the ship's cargo hold, the Marines found the four suspicious boxes, which contained such items as blasting caps, detonation cord and mortar shells.

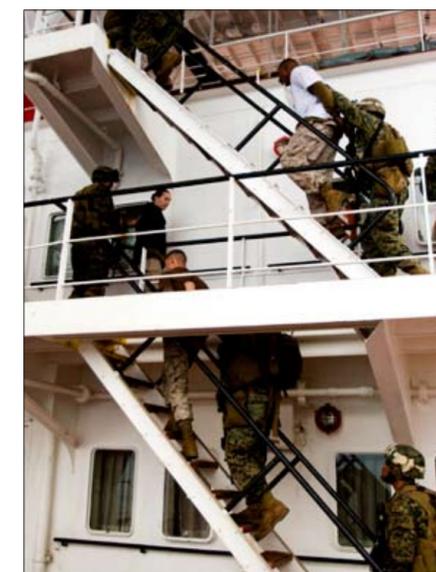
After the MCF secured the ship, sailors with Essex Expeditionary Strike Group took control of the Bonnyman until its crew could be returned.

During the first day of training, the service members received classes on the aspects of VBSS, such as preparation needed, vital areas on a ship and common layouts of ships.

The Marines and sailors spent days two through four becoming familiar with ship recovery, which included fast roping or climbing to the deck and what sort of intelligence needs to be reported. On day five, the team conducted a field training exercise, during which the instructors observed and evaluated the service members' performance in taking control of the ship.

The ship recovery exercises proved challenging for the Marines, but many of them said they did what they do best – adapted and overcame.

"The smaller spaces require a lot more attention to detail and make it hard to move," said Gunnery Sgt. Weslee Baker, a platoon commander with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, currently the 31st MEU's Battalion Landing Team. "But the Marines performed exactly the way they were trained and made it a successful mission."



Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Battalion Landing Team wrestle Sgt. Michael Ramey, a mock occupier, to the ground while an AH-1W Super Cobra provides close-air support for the MEU's mission to secure the MV 1st Lt. Alex Bonnyman Feb. 8 during Vessel Board, Search and Seizure training. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Knallay

MARSOC Marines become first to earn title of 'Lancero'

Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson
MARINE FORCES SPECIAL
OPERATIONS COMMAND

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (Feb. 12, 2008) — During 73 days of some of the most physically arduous and mentally grueling training in all of the militaries around the world, two Marines from Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, persevered to become the first MARSOC Marines to earn the title of "Lancero."

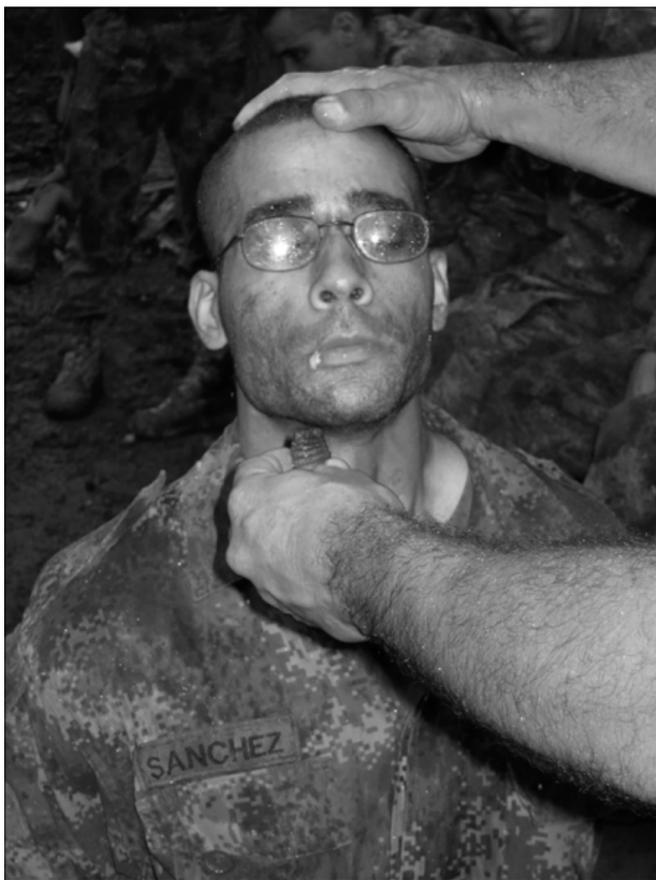
Capt. German E. Duarte and Sgt. Roberto P. Sanchez, graduated from the Escuela de Lanceros Dec. 5, 2007, where the Colombian National Army and servicemembers from friendly foreign militaries gather to endure Lancero training and develop themselves into highly-skilled warfighters.

"I would say this has been the toughest and the craziest out of all courses I have been through or heard of," said Duarte. "Without Marine Corps training, I don't think we would have even made it."

According to U.S. Army Maj. Edgar J. Alvarez, Lancero instructor and exchange officer, 7th Special Forces Group, the Lancero course began in Dec. 6, 1955, after members of the Colombian National Army went through U.S. Army Ranger school and used what they learned to form their own special forces school in Colombia. Today, the Escuela de Lanceros is designed to develop its students into experts in small-unit tactics and irregular warfare. More specifically, it prepares the Colombian military to combat terrorist groups who utilize guerilla tactics in their country.

Duarte and Sanchez said that much of the course is culture based. They learned techniques, tactics and procedures of the Colombian armed forces and gained a better understanding of the Colombian culture.

According to Duarte and Sanchez, the



A Lancero instructor helps Sgt. Roberto P. Sanchez, Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, eat a banana grub. Lancero candidates must use the surrounding environment to eat and survive during the jungle phase of Escuela de Lanceros. Sanchez and fellow MSOAG Marine, Capt. German E. Duarte, graduated from the Colombian special forces school on Dec. 5, 2007. Photo courtesy of Escuela de Lanceros

course is broken up into several phases: adaptation/acclimatization, irregular/urban, mountain and jungle warfare, and finally, graduation week.

In the adaptation/acclimatization phase, Duarte and Sanchez acclimated to the heat and humidity and instructors led intensive

physical training to prepare students for the duration of the course.

"You get used to not sleeping and eating well and beating your body down with PT," said Sanchez. "They teach you weapons familiarization, land navigation and the Colombian [military] planning

process."

After two weeks, the students moved on to irregular/urban warfare and learned close quarters battle tactics similar to those used by U.S. armed forces.

"You do patrols and hikes at a training center and you come back in the morning and immediately start planning for the next patrol. Then, you get 2 hours of sleep before going out on that patrol," explained Sanchez.

According to Duarte, the main part of the course was the last four weeks, which encompassed both mountain- and jungle-warfare phases. The most difficult training evolutions fell within these weeks and included multiple hikes that ranged from 8 kilometers to a 36 kilometer hike known as the Marca de la Muerte, or March of Death.

"The hikes were definitely the most difficult part of the course because the terrain is rough, there are no breaks and you carry 60-70 pounds on your back as you go up and down mountains and through the jungle," said Duarte. "It's not like (Marine Corps hikes) where you go for so long, and you take a break and drink water. Over there, you get water, but on the move."

During the jungle phase, Duarte and Sanchez spent a difficult eight days in a mock concentration camp. Students were deprived of food and subjected to various physical and mental stresses in an effort to break their spirits. Duarte and Sanchez persevered and were impressed by their fellow Colombian students.

"There is a culture of machismo," said Duarte. "Some of the things they do you wouldn't do in the Marine Corps or anywhere else, but they do it because they have to show they are men."

Despite the difficulty of the final four weeks of the course, both Duarte and Sanchez say it was their favorite part of the Lancero course. The two Marines serve together in MSOAG to train, advise and build relationships with foreign militaries. The Lancero course honed their skills both as infantrymen and as special operations advisors.

"I have done two foreign internal defense missions in Colombia," said Duarte. "For the Colombian Army, being a Lancero is kind of like being a Ranger in the [U.S.] Army. Most of their infantry officers go there to gain knowledge and prestige.

"Marines help Marines wherever you go," said Duarte. "It's the same for Lanceros. When they see another Lancero, they say, 'Hey, how can I help you?' or 'What can I do for you?' They are always looking out for each other."

Active duty Marines and sailors interested in joining MARSOC can contact the Marine Special Operations School at MCB Camp Lejeune by calling (910) 451-0099/3349 (DSN 751-3349/3123) or visit us online at www.marsoc.usmc.mil.



Capt. German E. Duarte, Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, sights in using a bow and arrow during survival training in the jungle phase of the 10-week Escuela de Lanceros. Duarte graduated from the Colombian special forces school with fellow MSOAG Marine, Sgt. Roberto P. Sanchez, Dec. 5, 2007. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson

Community Briefs

"Big Voice" warning for NBC or other attack

When the station loudspeaker sounds off, the message needs to be clearly passed on to as many personnel as possible within a timely manner. For more information, call 253-3315.

JAS cooking class

Feb. 28, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., at Atago Community Center. There is a 1,000 yen fee to participate. The menu is smoked salmon pasta, fried cauliflower, and Greek lemon soup. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Japanese American Society Iwakuni at 253-4744.

2008 Japanese Culture Festival

March 30, noon to 5 p.m., at M.C. Perry School's library, cafeteria and staff lounge. Free. So much to see and do. Immerse yourself in the culture of Japan. For more information, contact Japanese American Society

Iwakuni at 253-4744.

Childbirth education series

Feb. 13, 20 and 27, 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m., at Building 411, Room 219. This is a three-part class that covers the nine months of pregnancy, preparing for birth overseas, active labor/delivery and much more. Bring your own pillows for the breathing and relaxation techniques taught at the end of each class. Call 253-6553 to register.

Voting information

Voting information request cards, for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni use only, have been made to assist voters in retrieving information about their state elections. Request cards and points of contact have been posted at the Main Post Office, North Side Post Office, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron barracks, Combat Logistics Company 36 barracks,

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 barracks, high school, elementary school and library. For more voting assistance information, visit www.fvap.gov.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

Mothers of Preschoolers will now meet starting March 6 through May at Yujo Hall, Marine Memorial Chapel every 1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. For more information, call 253-2885.

Military Saves Week

The Military Saves Week runs from Sunday to March 1. For more information, contact the Financial Fitness Counselor's office at 253-6250.

2008 Post Office Holiday Closures

5 May (Mon) Closed Friendship Day
26 May (Mon) Closed Memorial

Day
4 Jul (Fri) Closed Independence Day
1 Sep (Mon) Closed Labor Day
13 Oct (Mon) Closed Columbus Day
Nov. - Dec. posted in October 2008

Volunteer victim advocate training

February 25-29, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Building 411, Room 217. This training is for all status of forces agreement-status adults. Become a Volunteer Victim Advocate! Volunteers are trained men and women who provide immediate assistance to victims of spouse abuse and sexual assault. Contact Marine Corps Community Services, Marine & Family Services Division, Victim Advocate at 253-4526 to sign up.

Japanese cooking class (Japanese American Society)

Feb. 28, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., at Atago Community Center. There is a 1,000 yen fee to participate. The menu is smoked salmon pasta, fried cauliflower, and Greek lemon soup. For more information or to make a reservation, contact JAS Iwakuni at 253-4744.

ADVENTURE

Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Oue Eiji

The Saturday concert begins at 3 p.m. at Shinfonia Iwakuni. Seats prices vary. S-seats are 5,500 yen, A-seats are 4,500 yen, B-seats are 3,000 yen and Student B-seats are 1,000 yen. Joseph-Maurice Ravel and Alborada del Gracioso. For more information, contact Shinfonia Iwakuni by calling 0827-29-1600.

Miyajima Exploration

Every Friday from August 10, 2007 - March 30, 2008 (excluding December 28 and January 4). 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. from in front of Miyajima Pier. Free of charge. Advanced reservation is necessary but you can also book your reservation on the day of your visit. and Zen Buddhism and Tea Ceremony Experience, together with the date that you would like to attend, your name, address and contact details (telephone number, email, fax), and send by either email (info@miyajima.or.jp). For more information, contact the Miyajima Tourist Association by calling (0829) 44-2011.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education

Protestant

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
1:00 p.m. Spanish Fellowship
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

Islamic

Friday Noon Prayer

Jewish

Friday 6:00 p.m. Shabbat

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 or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-5218.

M.C. Perry Elementary School

Accreditation Visit

Pamela Anthony, Teacher

On Feb. 26 at 2:45 p.m. parents are invited to attend the open forum to share their thoughts. For the past two years our school has been readying itself for the upcoming accreditation visit by the AdvancED Accreditation Body. Last year, the faculty and parents began our next five year cycle by creating a mission statement that would guide our school in meeting the needs of our students and stakeholders for the future. Our students recite our child friendly version every morning.

"I will pursue excellence. I am responsible for my actions. I am a life long learner. Success begins with me."

In order to ensure that we, as a staff and stakeholders, could have students reach their fullest potential, we assessed our school's strengths and weaknesses by reviewing test

scores and other data and after a great deal of discussion created two goals. We wanted to improve balanced literacy and student inquiry skills, but how? We set forth certain areas in literacy to emphasize each year. For this year, it has been Shared Writing and Read Aloud. Both activities model for students what good writers and good readers do. In shared writing the teacher writes as students share ideas. In read aloud, teachers read stories to their students, often stopping to ask questions. I know many parents already do this at home; parents are teachers too. We also wanted to look at inquiry. Inquiry is asking questions and finding answers and then asking more questions. For this year, we have adopted the KWL chart. K stands for what you know, W stands for what you want to know, and L stands for what you learned. This is an excellent way for students to learn how to organize their thinking. We have also continued to use our STEPS

problem-solving model from the previous five year cycle. This is an exciting time for us at MC Perry Elementary! We are able to show how we have grown and how we continue to do so always putting our families and our students first.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 26
Open Forum for School, Accreditation 2:45 p.m. in school cafeteria

Feb. 27
Full day of school

March 18
Parent Child Book Club

The Mission of our school community is to empower students to achieve excellence in scholarship, character, and citizenship as independent, lifelong learners.

Goal One: All students will improve in balanced literacy across the curriculum.

Goal Two: All students will improve inquiry skills across the curriculum.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1997 Step Wagon Van

Asking for \$2,500, JCI till February 2010. Runs great. Great AC/heat. For more information, call 080-6612-9218 (cell) or 253-2140 (home).

1999 Mitsubishi Diamante (Sedan)

Asking for \$2,8500, JCI till February 2010. Nice silver, must sell, automatic, almost new tires. For more information, call 090-7506-6743 (cell).

1994 Nissan (Sedan)

Asking for \$500, JCI till June 2008. If you are interested in looking at or purchasing the vehicle, call 253-3008 (work) or 090-9823-8745 (cell).

1995 Toyota TRX 2.0

4 door, asking for \$2,100. JCI till December 2009.

Sporty, clean and reliable, great ride! 5-passenger, 12 disc CD/tape, cold A/C, heat, power everything. For more information, call (work) 253-5951 or (home) 253-7152.

OTHER ITEMS

Dog for sale

5 month old Yorkshire terrier puppy for sale. He is microchipped, all shots up to date and JKC certified (can be transferred to AKC when back in the states). \$500.00 or best offer. For more information, call 253-3211 (work) or 253-2114 (home).

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 to IWKN_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil or in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.

Got news?

If so, e-mail your story ideas to IWKN_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil. Your story idea could appear in the next edition of The Iwakuni Approach, the air station's source for command information.

Mess Hall Schedule

MONDAY Feb. 25, 2008

Manhattan Clam Chowder, Chicken and Rice Soup, Sauerbraten, Jerk Style Chicken Steamed Rice, Oven Browned Potatoes French Fried Okra, Calico Cabbage, Brown Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Coconut Raisin Cookies Double Layer Almond Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Pasta Bar

TUESDAY Feb. 26, 2008

Beef Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Swiss Steak with Gravy, Szechwan Chicken, O'Brian Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, French Fried, Cauliflower, Broccoli Parmesan, Brown Gravy, Cheese Biscuit, Butterscotch Brownies, Apple Pie, Spice Cake w/ Butter cream Frosting, Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

WEDNESDAY Feb. 27, 2008

Tomato Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Sweet and Sour Pork, Yakisoba (Hamburger), Fried Rice, Brussels Sprouts, Simmered Corn, Hot Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Sweet Potato Pie, Whipped Topping, Coconut Cake, Specialty Bar: BBQ

THURSDAY Feb. 28, 2008

Minestrone Soup, Cream of Broccoli Soup, Fried Chicken, Beef Stroganoff, Buttered Pasta, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Okra and Tomato Gumbo, Southern, Style Green Beans, Chicken Gravy, Cheese Biscuits, Devils Food Cake with Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pumpkin Pie, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

FRIDAY March 1, 2008

Beef Barley, Spanish Soup, Lemon Baked Fish, El Rancho Stew, Steamed Rice, Potatoes Au Gratin, Cauliflower Combo, Black Eyed Peas, Hot Dinner Rolls, Brown Gravy, Fruit Turnovers, Bread Pudding, Crisp Toffee Bars, Chocolate Pudding with Whipped Topping, Specialty Bar: Hot Dogs, Polish Sausage

Sakura Theater

Friday, Feb. 22, 2008

7 p.m. Alien vs. Predator (R) (Premier)
10 p.m. Jumper (PG-13) (Premier)

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008

1 p.m. Bucket List (PG-13)
4 p.m. Jumper (PG-13)
7 p.m. One Missed Call (PG-13) (Premier)

Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008

1 p.m. The Kite Runner (PG-13) (Premier)
4 p.m. Alien vs. Predator (R)
7 p.m. Jumper (PG-13)

Monday, Feb. 25, 2008

7 p.m. No Country for Old Men (R)

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008

4 p.m. Cloverfield (PG13)

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008

7 p.m. The Bucket List (PG13)

General admission: Ages 12+ are \$2.50 / Ages 6-11 are \$1 / Children ages 5 and under admitted free For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

MOVIE RATING SYSTEM GUIDE

G: All Ages Permitted. The film contains nothing most parents will consider offensive for their youngest children to see or hear. Nudity, sex scenes, and drug use are absent; violence is minimal; snippets of dialogue may go beyond polite conversation, but do not go beyond common every-day expressions.

PG: Parental Guidance Suggested; Some material may not be suitable for children. The film may contain some material parents might not like to expose to their young children. Explicit sex scenes and drug use are absent; nudity if present, is seen only briefly; horror and violence do not exceed moderate levels.

PG-13: Parents Strongly Cautioned; Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. The film rated may be inappropriate for pre-teens. Parents should be especially careful about letting their younger children watch. Rough or persistent violence is absent; sexually oriented nudity is generally absent, some drug use may be seen; some profanity may be heard.

SAKURA THEATER POLICY - Patrons must be at least 10 years old to view a "PG-13" movie unaccompanied. Patrons under 10 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian throughout the entire movie.

R: Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; The film rated contains some adult material. Parents are urged to learn more about the film before allowing their children to see it. An R may be assigned due to, among other things, profanity, theme, violence, sensuality, or its portrayal of drug use.

SAKURA THEATER POLICY - Patrons must be at least 17 years old to view an "R" movie unaccompanied. Patrons under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian throughout the entire movie.



Army Spc. Jeffrey Spencer of Fort Carson, Colo., prevails 10-6 over Petty Officer 3rd Class Javon Wallace in the 158-pound finale of the 2008 Armed Forces Boxing Championships Feb. 7. Photo by Tim Hipps

ALL-ARMY TEAM DOMINATES IN ARMED FORCES BOXING

TIM HIPPS

ARMY FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION COMMAND

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The All-Army Boxing Team secured seven individual gold medals en route to winning its 17th consecutive team title in the Armed Forces Boxing Championships Feb. 4-7.

Heavyweight Staff Sgt. Joe Guzman and superheavyweight Staff Sgt. Andrew Shepherd, both members of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, quieted a raucous, Marine Corps-partisan crowd at Goettge Memorial Field House during the final two bouts, both of which were stopped early by the referee.

"After that, you could hear crickets," Guzman said after knocking out Marine Lance Cpl. DeJesus Gardner at 1 minute, 43 seconds of the first round of their 201-pound bout.

"It was rowdy in here and the people back in the corner were talking a lot of smack, but we kept our composure and we stayed disciplined," Guzman said.

"We're Army, and we didn't want to do anything foolish. The eyes were pretty much on us because we're the defending champs. That felt great to go out there and drop him. The crowd was quiet, so I did something good."

Guzman hurt Gardner in the middle of the ring with a strong overhand right and floored him a few seconds later near the ropes with a vicious left hook.

"I caught him with an overhand right and kind of staggered him," Guzman said. "Then I finished him off with that left hook. I could see that he was ready to go because his legs were buckled. You could see it in his eyes. I caught him clean and I knew that was the end."

"I hit him with one of my best shots -- that's how hard it was. He was out, so I went to the neutral corner and just waited. I knew he wasn't getting up after that."

Two nights earlier, Guzman stopped Air Force Staff Sgt. James Sterling Jr. at 31 seconds of the third round.

"I've been on a weightlifting program and I just feel stronger," said Guzman, 27, a native of Eloy, Ariz., who is stationed at Fort Carson, Colo. "We have a strength

and conditioning coach, Sgt. 1st Class Tony Claiborne, and I've been working with him one-on-one. He knows his stuff."

As does All-Army coach Basheer Abdullah, who led the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team to the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

"Guzman is getting really strong," Abdullah said. "He's been putting in his time in the weight room, and it's starting to pay off, along with his experience. He's one of those guys, along with (John) Franklin and Shepherd, that won medals at the Military World Games. They're using that experience and it's really showing. Hopefully, it will get us a national title."

In one of two women's bouts on the championship card, Army National Guard Sgt. Cherrie Retamozzo of Staten Island, N.Y., dominated a 34-11 victory over Sonia Deputee of Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, Calif.

"She's part of this team," said Abdullah, who gave his team gold medal to Retamozzo. "She contributes to our success not only inside the ring but outside of the ring. She carried herself like an ambassador just like these men did."

Abdullah was content that the All-Army team continued its Armed Forces dominance.

"The last time we lost this tournament was 1991 when most of our top guys were deployed to Desert Storm," said Abdullah, who won his 112-pound bout that night at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where he boxed under the name of Byron Moore. The Marines won the team title that year, but the Army since has kept a stranglehold on the crown.

"We own Armed Forces Boxing," Abdullah said. "We had won it several times prior to that loss. We've been dominating this sport for a long time."

The U.S. National Championships, scheduled for March 9-4 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., is the next stop for the All-Army squad.

"All-Army is out of the way and Armed Forces is out of the way," Guzman said. "Nationals is next, and that's definitely the big one."



Army Spc. Nathaniel Hicks (left) of Fort Gordon, Ga., wins the 178-pound weight class with a 17-14 victory over Cpl. Andre Ramirez in the 2008 Armed Forces Boxing Championships Feb. 7 at Marine Corps Base Camp, Lejeune, N.C. Photo by Tim Hipps



Lance Cpl. Samuel Martinez hits Airman 1st Class Davis Russell during the 2008 Armed Forces Boxing Championships. Photo by Tim Hipps

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

The air station will be conducting a basewide readiness exercise

March 11-13. Weapons and chemical, biological, radiological, neurological and explosive gear will be carried around the clock.

Impact to the civilian population and other units will be minimized. Call Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Training at 253-3417 for more information.