

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 11, Vol. 1

Friday, March 21, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Total Force tests station readiness

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In a brief radio message and a swift relaying of word, Iwakuni's first Exercise Total Force came to an end March 13 after nearly 50 hours of controlled mayhem and execution of response procedures.

The exercise was the first time a Marine Corps base tested its response to supporting a war effort while defending itself against aggressors.

The station stayed in Force Protection Condition Delta for approximately 45 hours.

FPCON Delta is a distinction reserved for when an installation is under a terrorist attack or when one has just occurred,

SEE FORCE ON PAGE 6

Navy corpsmen from the Branch Health Clinic and Iwakuni firefighters render aid to an injured victim during Exercise Total Force 2008. The Total Force exercise is a station-wide training evolution evaluating the defense and support of station operations during possible terrorist attacks and contingencies. Sgt. Ricardo A. Gomez



Marine assists neighbor during dangerous blaze



Cpl. Marcus Birdon, a military policeman with the Provost Marshal's Office, recounts with neighbor Teruko Masaki the fire that occurred in the kitchen at Masaki's home. On March 8, Birdon extinguished a stovetop blaze that threatened the home in the Monzen Cho community. Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

SEE FIRE ON PAGE 3

Bailey takes post as station sergeant major

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Bailey succeeded Sgt. Maj. Randolph L. Mitchell as the station sergeant major during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here March 14.

Mitchell, who held the billet since June 2005, will be retiring.

During the ceremony, Mitchell was thanked for his service through letters of appreciation from the commander in chief, commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

He was also presented the meritorious service medal with gold star in lieu of fourth award for his service as the station sergeant major since June 2005.

"During his 28 years of service, he served honorably, he served with distinction—dignity," O'Halloran remarked following the presentation. "He made a difference."

Bailey, who has been the station's Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major since April 2005, then addressed the audience, which included U.S. and Japanese service members, family members and friends.

Though he will likely hold the billet for just a few months due to an

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chocolate rabbits, eggs, Easter

CHAPLAIN ALLEN R. KUSS
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

Images of rabbits, eggs and baby chicks are seen this time of year. Easter egg hunts are what many children want to participate in. Let's not forget the chocolates and sugar laden candies which boost our energy. Let's not forget the pre-Easter sales. What do all these things have to do with the religious observance of the Christian celebration of Easter?

The Christian observance of Easter is based on the central belief that Jesus of Nazareth, after his Roman crucifixion and death, physically rose from the tomb in which he was buried three days later. The observance celebrates this Christian belief that he is alive and that Christians share in this new life now and will after their own deaths.

Since this message and belief in the resurrection of Jesus is

so encompassing, various things are used to express some of its aspects. Some of the images are natural symbols of life: rabbits are prolific and energetic; eggs contain life and vitality; sugar and chocolate are simply enjoyable and place us in the mood of celebration. These things then are used to express the exuberance of the new spiritual life share by Christians in Jesus Christ. The egg represents both life and the tomb which could not contain him. Sugar and chocolate represent the goodness of God and the desire to celebrate this gift. Rabbits represent the vitality and strength of this new life. Last but not least, the shopping part is a remnant of the preparation done in the past to wear the best clothing to religious worship on Easter Sunday.

The joyous celebration of Easter and the worship of countless Christians bear witness to the risen Jesus Christ. The foods, symbols, hymns and celebrations are part of our rich religious heritage as Americans.

Join your friends or neighbors in this springtime celebration.

Race participants 'Run on the Green'



In honor of St. Patrick's Day, station residents put on green and laced up their running shoes for the annual "Run on the Green" at Torii Pines golf course here March 15. Both children and adults ran in the 2.5-kilometer and 5-kilometer race that took the runners along the perimeter of the course. Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Friendship Day requirements

Submit unit or private organization consumable or non-consumable reports to the Provost Marshal's Office by March 28.

PMO cannot accept any reports after that date. Any unit or private organization intending to sell consumable or non-consumable items at Friendship Day 2008 must get approval from the Provost Marshal's Office. For more information, contact Customs and Immigration, Building 779. Call 253-5418 or 253-3303.

Hours of operation are from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



"Metal Boot Camp" — A live 1-hour radio theme program that features the 'harder edge' of rock music. It is hosted by fictional characters associated with boot camp. Mondays — Fridays, 1 — 2 p.m. except holidays, on Power 1575.

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LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Eliminate the threat, preserve life. It's a creed military policemen live by both on and off duty, recently exemplified by one Marine here whose actions may have saved a local family from extensive property damage or, potentially, serious injury.

An off-duty MP responded to a fire that broke out in the kitchen of a residence in the off-base Monzen Cho community March 8.

Cpl. Marcus Birdon, Provost Marshal's Office training noncommissioned officer-in-charge, was spending a quiet evening at home when a loud knock at his door followed by the call "emergency" prompted him to run outside.

There he found frantic neighbor Teruko Masaki motioning at the plumes of smoke coming from the side entrance of her house.

Masaki, whose husband Susumu wasn't home at

the time of the blaze, said she panicked after an oil fire ignited in a pan on her stove.

Seeing Birdon's car parked out front, she ran for help after unsuccessfully trying to smother the blaze with a cushion.

"I didn't know what to say (in English), so all I could say was 'Come, come help!'" Masaki said.

"I tried to extinguish the fire, to cover everything," she added. "But my biggest concern was that since I couldn't tell (him) it was an oil fire, it would ignite quickly when he removed the cushion."

Masaki's fear came true; Birdon removed the pillows and doused them with water, but in doing so sustained a small burn when the pot flared up again. Ignoring his injury, the 29-year-old used a nearby bag of sugar to extinguish the rest of the fire before running the pot under cold water.

According to Birdon, the only thing going through his mind was the safety of Masaki and her two grandchildren, who witnessed the fire from the living room.

"Once the fire was out, I (checked) for injuries to

see if the children were wounded," Birdon said. "The children were OK, so I hurried and got them out of the house so they didn't have to breathe in all the smoke."

Help soon arrived, and Birdon was later taken to a local hospital and treated for his burn. Quick to dismiss the heroics of his actions, Birdon said it was second nature to assist a neighbor in need.

"I felt I was doing something (the Masakis) would have done for us," Birdon said. "And if any other Marine was put in my position, they would have done the same."

Those core values we go by become instinct in certain situations," he added.

Now out of the fire has risen a blooming relationship between the two households, one Masaki said she feels is rooted in neighborly trust.

"We are very appreciative," Masaki said. "It brings two families closer together."

"We're very happy to have (the Birdons) in our community," her husband added. "It gives us confidence to know such a good family."

Students concentrate during Pi Day



Matthew C. Perry High School senior Devin Miller concentrates on a math problem during M.C. Perry's 5th annual Pi Day at the high school gymnasium Friday. Six teams, grades 7-12, vied for a trip to the flight simulator here by competing in a variety of mathematical and physical challenges. Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler



Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Bailey receives the sword of command sergeant major by Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here March 14. Bailey will likely hold the position for only a few months as he is due to rotate to a new duty station. Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

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upcoming rotation, he expressed excitement about his new job.

"I look forward to working with each and every one of you and for each and every one of you to make this air station an outstanding duty station for the military and civilian personnel," Bailey said.

Bailey has served as a heavy vehicle operator and instructor, commanding general's driver and recruiter since enlisting in 1981.

His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, two Navy Achievement Medals and the Combat Action Ribbon.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH ONLINE

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

News Briefs

CATV seeks volunteers

The community access television system, which operates channels 18, 22 and 23, is currently searching for anyone over the age of 18 to volunteer their time to help keep programming running. Any questions, comments or concerns can be directed at 253-5631.

2008 Japanese Culture Fest

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.

2008 Post Office Closures

May 5 Closed Friendship Day
May 26 Closed Memorial Day
July 4 Closed Independence Day
Sept. 1 Closed Labor Day
Oct. 13 Closed Columbus Day

Station residents wine, dine during annual festival

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

From novice tasters to full-blown connoisseurs, station wine lovers came out in droves for the 7th annual Winter Wine Festival at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom here Saturday.

More than 100 different wines provided by four vendors were available for sampling or purchase as well as a massive spread of delicacies, ranging from suckling pig to fine cheese. And the festival didn't forego the fancy—patrons enjoyed the formal environment complete with ice sculptures, fine dress and traditional Japanese music.

"It's just grown over the years," said Matthew Niedzwiecki, Marine Corps Community Services retail operations manager. "We take Club Iwakuni and create the beautiful ... atmosphere. People who've been here a while tell all their friends to come, and it gets bigger and bigger every year."

Gallo Winery Asia Pacific Manager John Kimmey kicked off the event with a free seminar in which he shared his knowledge of wine and food pairings.

Residents mixed and matched different varieties with gourmet hors d'ourves and received a lesson in smart wine shopping.

"Wine has such a snob appeal," Kimmey said. "But if you do your homework, you can find some great wines for 10 to 15 dollars. You've just got to do some digging."

And dig they did. The happy crowd packed the ballroom all afternoon, sifting through the selection and discovering some hid-



Station wine lovers line up to sample wine during the Winter Wine Festival at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom here March 15. Patrons enjoyed more than 100 different wines provided by four different vendors as well as a massive spread of delicacies ranging from suckling pig to fine cheese. Photos by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

den gems.

"Over the last three years I've experimented with different varieties," said Lance Cpl. Michael Sweeney, Marine Aircraft Group 12 aviation operations specialist. "I thought there was a large collection there with something to capture every wine taster's interest."

I came home with a new favorite," he added.

"People who've been here a while tell all their friends to come, and it gets bigger and bigger every year."

— Matthew Niedzwiecki
MCCS operations manager



Patrons of the Winter Wine Festival were treated to traditional Japanese koto music at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom here March 15.



Noriyaki Fujimoto carves a suckling pig during the Winter Wine Festival at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom here March 15.



Station wine lovers enjoyed more than 100 different wines provided by four different vendors during the Winter Wine Festival at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom here March 15.

Bilateral field meet scores with Marines

CPL. G.P. INGERSOLL
1ST MARINE DIVISION

RODRIGUEZ LIVE FIRE COMPLEX, Republic of Korea (March 12, 2008) — They came; they saw ... they sat down and ate lunch like gentlemen.

Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines took part in a bilateral field meet just one day after participating in Operation Foe Eagle here March 10.

The Marines were first served lunch. The United Service Organizations provided the American classic hamburger and hot dog combination.

Koreans cooked up some kimchi, a cultured veggie dish, Bulgogi, a marinated meat dish, and white rice.

While Marines gobbled down both cultures happily, they also digested the meaning behind the meal.

"(The meal) bridged the language gap. As a family, we share the title of Marine," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Carl D. Hinson, a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear officer, 7th Marine Regiment. "After all the training, after all was said and done, they trusted us enough to sit down and have us eat food with them."

Many competitions awaited Marines once the meal was finished.

The U.S. took the Tug-o-War, and the ROK outscored the U.S. in a pitched game of soccer.

The timed Cross Fit competition, a rigorous circuit training regimen, also went to the U.S. The race was more about passing on training methods and having a good laugh than winning or losing.

"Cross fit is training they don't use,



Cpl. Kevin W. Brown, training chief, Communications Platoon, Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, motivates a fellow (Republic of Korea) Marine during a Cross Fit competition at the bilateral field meet, Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, Republic of Korea, March 10. The field meet was a welcomed relief for the Marines, U.S. and ROK, who had just completed Operation Foe Eagle, an annual bilateral training exercise integrating Republic of Korea Marines and U.S. Marine Corps combined arms. Photos by Cpl. G.P. Ingersoll

so it's something new," said Cpl. Kevin W. Brown. "For all the onlookers, it's also funny, but it was funny because they weren't going through the pain."

Brown, a Cross Fit Instructor for 7th Marine Regiment, could be seen trying to rope those who laughed the hardest to

actually participate in the training. He also "motivated" the Marines struggling with exhaustion, whether they were ROK or U.S.

"It boosts the morale highly, especially being in another country, not just showing those ROK Marines how we get along

with each other, but showing them how we get along with other units," said Brown.

A day earlier, they assaulted an objective, and together killed the "enemy" like professionals.

Then they sat down and dined like gentlemen.

"After all the training, after all was said and done, they trusted us enough to sit down and have us eat food with them."

— Chief Warrant Officer 4 Carl D. Hinson
chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear officer



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Carl D. Hinson, chemical biological radiological, nuclear officer, Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, cooks up burgers for more than 400 hungry Marines, Republic of Korea and U.S., during the bilateral field meet at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, ROK, March 10.



Sgt. Javier E. Correa, Unit Movement Control Center chief, Motor Transport, Headquarters Company, 7th Marines, leads the U.S. Marines in a Tug-o-War against the Republic of Korea Marines in a bilateral field meet on Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, ROK, March 10. The U.S. Marines lost the first Tug-o-War but won the overall competition.

TOTAL FORCE 2008



Members of the Iwakuni Fire Department tend to a victim after a simulated explosion occurred at the fuel farms on March 11, 2008 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan during exercise Total Force 2008. Total Force 2008 is a station-wide exercise evaluating the defense and support of operations at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, during possible terrorist attacks and contingencies. Photo by Sgt. Ricardo A. Gomez



Kenji Matsumoto and Toshifumi Ishihi, both firefighters from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, carefully remove a powdered substance and any objects in the area that may have been contaminated at the Post Office on March 11, 2008 during exercise Total Force 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz

(Left) A suspicious character outside the Monzen Gate at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, is incarcerated by Provost Marshall's Office Sgt. Christopher J. Long on March 11, 2008 during exercise Total Force 2008. The suspicious character had given Long false information in order to attempt to get on base. Total Force 2008 is a station-wide exercise evaluating the defense and support of operations at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, during possible terrorist attacks and contingencies. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz

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creating difficulty for response personnel as 100 percent of manpower must be used for support.

Training officials validated and revised response plans based on real data obtained during the heightened state of security.

Capt. Guiseppe Stavale, station provost marshal, said individual Marines stretched their legs and began understanding how those pre-formulated plans actually translated into their actions.

"A lot of resources were dedicated to be able to stay in that heightened posture," Stavale said. "To be in FPCON Delta for that amount of time is highly unusual, but we managed to sustain it effectively."

Auxiliary security force personnel, provost marshal's office personnel, aircraft rescue firefighters and medical responders were utilized around the clock.

The simulated scenarios included discoveries of suspicious packages, noncombatant evacuation operation procedures, discoveries of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, explosive attacks, and bomb threats in vital locations. The mayhem was mostly attributed to seven 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Marines from Okinawa who worked closely with Maj. Mike Jeron, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron training officer-in-charge, to challenge the station.

The exercise, as Jeron described, was designed to simulate what would take place if Iwakuni experienced an attack while supporting forward-deployed units. In that scenario, the station would evacuate noncombatants and request support from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force for assistance, he said.

"The two-to three-day gap from the time we request the assistance to the time the assistance actually arrives is how the exercise is time-framed," said Jeron.

During the exercise, Fleet Assistance Program personnel were directed to stand down in order to further challenge existing manpower.

Even with the lack of personnel and extended duration of elevated vigilance, 13 people were processed and evacuated to Yokota Air Force Base while an effective response was performed for each aggressive attack.

The exercise went as planned, Jeron said.

But the 50-hour crisis exposed some areas that need improvement, according to Stavale who said response procedures, allocation of forces, and annual training schedules need to be re-evaluated.

During an all-hands exercise debrief at the Sakura Theater Monday, Iwakuni Marines were reminded that the most vital components in the response to any emergency situation was fundamental Marine Corps unit and individual readiness.



Seaman Nathan D. Harper, a hospitalman with the Branch Health Clinic at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, ensures the "patient" is properly secured before preparing to take off in a C-12 for a medical evacuation on March 11, 2008 during exercise Total Force 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz



Administrative clerks from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Iwakuni, Japan, work quickly and tediously to process the selected marines for evacuation during a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation exercise on March 12, 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz

AROUND THE CORPS

A flying look into women's history

LANCE CPL. JESSICA N. ARANDA
3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

AL ASAD, Iraq (March 13, 2008) — From Amelia Earhart's solo trans-Atlantic flight in 1932 to Marine Capt. Sarah Deal's achievement as the first-ever female Marine Corps pilot in 1995, the spectrum of women's aviation history continues to expand.

Women's history month celebrates these and other amazing accomplishments with the theme, "Women's Art: Women's Vision."

One Marine's visions, most commonly viewed through the windshield of a tiltrotor aircraft, contribute to the growing list of women's firsts.

Capt. Elizabeth A. Okoreeh-Baah, attached to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263, is recognized as the very first female MV-22 Osprey pilot.

"To be the first female anything is kind of shocking," explained Okoreeh-Baah, who views all of her successes as an opportunity to give something back to others.

Okoreeh-Baah began piloting toward new opportunities for the generations behind her long before her first MV-22 flight.

The Nashville, Tenn., native graduated from the Naval Academy in 2000, as one of the first females with a Marine Corps aviation contract.

After more than five years flying the CH-46E Sea Knight, including a yearlong combat deployment, Okoreeh-Baah's unit, then Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, began replacing the CH-46Es with the MV-22s, and she hopped onboard the transition process.

The 28-year-old completed the transition and made her historic flight March 13, 2006, two years ago today.

"She's an integral part of the squadron, just like any other pilot," said Maj. Eric Garcia, a pilot with VMM-263. "Being recognized historically as the first female is a big accomplishment."

Okoreeh-Baah thinks women's history month is another chance for the future of society to see examples of who they can view as role models.

"It's good to have individuals who set the bar and encourage us to become better Marines," said Gunnery Sgt. Jeanette Santoro, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) career retention specialist and president of the Women Marines Association here. "It allows us to know what goals



Capt. Elizabeth A. Okoreeh-Baah, the first female MV-22 Osprey pilot, stands on the flight line after a combat operation March 12. The Nashville, Tenn., native spent five years flying the CH-46E Sea Knight before transitioning to the MV-22. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Stevens

we can accomplish and gives us something to strive for. It also shows the billets female Marines are now filling."

Everything we do affects women's history, the fact that we're out here in Iraq easily visible to the international press and

other Marines sets an example, explained Okoreeh-Baah.

"People will never know the possibilities if no one ever aspires to do them," she added.

Marines help Japanese trapped in overturned car

CPL. JENNIFER CALAWAY
MCB CAMP BUTLER

CAMP FUJI, Japan (March 14, 2008) — He could see the car coming up behind him, swerving in and out of lanes. His eyes followed the black, speeding car just as it cut across two lanes of traffic, passed the car directly in front of him and clipped a Nissan Cube, sending it fish-tailing and overturning.

The driver who watched the accident unfold within a few seconds March 1 on Route 16 near Camp Fuji was Lance Cpl. Jonathan Alvarado, a motor transportation operator with Camp Fuji's Ground Motor and Equipment Management Office.

Before Alvarado knew it, he and another Marine in his vehicle found themselves rushing to the aid of two motorists in the overturned Cube.

"Both cars were out of control, and the speeding car sent the Cube rolling on its side," Alvarado said. "It was like slow motion, watching the car ahead of us roll over."

Alvarado slammed on his brakes, and by the time his vehicle had come to a complete stop, the Cube was on its side.

Alvarado looked to Lance Cpl. Michael Langenstrass, a logistics clerk with Headquarters Battalion, Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, and without hesitation the two Marines instinctively rushed toward the wreckage.

Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Lucas, Camp Fuji's sergeant

major, was in the back seat when, before he could even react, the Marines jumped out to help.

"They had absolutely no hesitation," said Lucas, who the Marines had picked up from the airport to take back to Fuji. "They didn't know if the car would start on fire; there was oil leaking everywhere."

From a distance, Alvarado could see the Cube was on its passenger side and two Japanese citizens were trapped.

"I paused for a millisecond before I got to the car," Alvarado said. "I thought for sure they'd be really mangled up."

But when Alvarado peeked into the driver window, there was no blood, no broken bones.

The woman in the car was still in her seatbelt, and her male companion was struggling to free her. Moments later, Alvarado was opening the car door and carefully helping the woman out.

As the Marines and a Japanese passerby helped the man out of the vehicle, lit and placed a road flare and directed traffic.

The Marines each gave the Japanese police statements, and, when there was nothing more they could do, drove back to Camp Fuji.

The three drove in silence.

"Since it happened, I keep thinking back to when I saw two people killed instantly in a motorcycle crash a few years ago, and I couldn't do anything," Alvarado said. "That stayed with me. I'm really glad that, at least this time, I was able to help those people."

Spec Ops Marines deliver



An Afghan boy receives a school bag from Afghan National Army soldiers and a Marine Special Operations Company's team members. The units were visiting a Helmand Province village in late February. Photo by Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.

Community Briefs

Open House

April 1, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Counseling Services, Building 411, Room 222. Marine & Family Counseling Services will have an open house for all commanding officers, executive officers, and sergeants major. There are many resources available to air station residents and commands; visiting and exploring the Counsel-

ing Services Branch, you can learn how we can help you as well as your people and meet the staff and volunteers. A light buffet style lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Teal Ribbon Campaign

April 1 - 30. The goal of the Teal

Ribbon Campaign is to inform Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni of reporting options and prevention of sexual assault. Teal ribbons will be distributed to the community throughout the entire month of April. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Acquaintance Rape

"The Ultimate Betrayal" on Channel 18, April 1 - 30. When does sexual assertiveness cross the line and become date rape? "Acquaintance Rape" is an increasingly recognized problem in our society. In this documentary, viewers are given an unsettling look at this brutal crime and its aftermath. Rape survivors speak candidly about the trauma of their attack. This program will play several times during April on Channel 18. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Assault on Sexual Assault Campaign Uniform Victim Advocates

April 1 - 30. The Department of Defense, in coordination with military and civilian professionals, have developed and implemented many policies concerning the prevention, intervention, and investigation of sexual assaults. This policy provides a restricted reporting option to military victims of sexual assault. Uniform Victim Advocates can assist military victims of sexual assault who may have some confusion, concerns, or questions concerning the military restricted reporting options. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Acquaintance Rape Seminar: CHOICES

April 3, 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. at the Marine Memorial Chapel Library. Sexual Assaults can and do occur in every demographic profoundly affecting people in every walk of life - including the military. Restricted reporting policies will be reviewed and discussed using hypothetical and real-world examples. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and engage in the discussion as well. For more information, contact Marine &

Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Dating and Teen Relationships

April 3, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Youth & Teen Center. The Youth & Teen Center Smart Girls and Torch Club members will receive Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Training. The focus of this program is to teach teenagers how to recognize the signs of an abusive relationship. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Annual Training Mock Sexual Assault Trial

April 17 - 18, 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. at Sakura Theater. This Mock Sexual Assault Trial will be used to educate the MCAS Iwakuni community about the legal process and address myths and facts about sexual assault. This dramatic style of presentation enables MCAS Iwakuni to pull in judicial representatives, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, and Victim Advocates. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Truth Campaign Posters

April 16, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Crossroads, Marine Corps Exchange, post office. Victimization of men and women serving our nation is devastating and can be particularly overwhelming if the assault occurs in a small town environment. There are many barriers to reporting sexual assaults in military and civilian communities - for many of the same reasons. This campaign will bring awareness about reporting options and statistics of Sexual Assaults in the Marine Corps. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Self Defense Class at the Gym

April 26, 9 - 10:30 a.m. at Iron Works Gym Dojo Room. Self-defense is a set of awareness, assertiveness, and verbal confrontation skills with safety strategies and physical techniques that enable someone to successfully escape resist and survive violent attacks. A good self-defense course provides psychological awareness and verbal skills, not just physical training. Join us at the IronWorks Gym. For more information, contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS is now meeting through

Family Counseling Services at 253-4526. May at Yujo Hall every first and third Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, call 253-2885.

MOPS needs help

The newly organized program is still in need of helpers for our MOPETS children's program. There is a small commitment of only six meetings: two hours twice a month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., the first and third Thursdays through May. If you can be a helper for our teachers, please call 253-2290 or 253-2884.

Overseas Cost of Living Allowance Survey

COLA is a supplement designed to equalize purchasing power between active duty members overseas and their CONUS-based counterparts. The Living Pattern Survey is one of the surveys that are used to determine COLA. During March, accompanied service members and their spouses are encouraged to fill out the survey at www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/japan/. For more information, please contact the Station Inspector's Office at 253-3428/5314/3033.

UMUC Academic Advisor visit

March 31 and April 1, 8 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4:30 p.m. at Building 411, Room 115. Appointments must be made in advance by contacting the Iwakuni University of Maryland University College Office. Each appointment will be 30 minutes in duration, in a private classroom, "one-on-one" with an academic advisor. Please call 253-3303 to make an appointment.

Officers Spouses Club (OSC) Scholarship

The Officers Spouses Club is offering to dependent spouses and Matthew C. Perry high school seniors \$12,000 in scholarships. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 15. The applications are available at the high school, through the Key Volunteer network and various locations on base. For more information, call at 253-2508.

The 13th Annual Pista Sa Nayan "Town Fiesta"

May 24, (5:30 p.m. - social hour, 6:30 p.m. - dinner buffet and show, dance to follow) at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. There will be Filipino cultural performances, dinner and dance, and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$30. For more information or ticket, call at 253-4825 or 253-6084.

ROAD TAX Due April 2008

Road Tax must be paid between **April 1, 2008 - April 30, 2008** in order to receive your new base decal:

HEAVY VEHICLE	COST
PLATE	\$12,000
3RD, 3YR, 3000, 3000L (4,500cc & over)	\$22,000
320Y, 330Y, 331Y (4,500cc & below)	\$19,000
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y (320Y, 500Y, 331Y, 500Y)	\$7,500

Heavy Vehicles will pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building (8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.) (Parking is free in the rear of the building.)

LIGHT VEHICLE / MOTORCYCLE	COST
PLATE	\$1,000
SUA, 400, 400A, 500A, YAMAHA, B	\$1,000
IWAKUNI A, B, C	\$200

Light Vehicles & Motorcycles will pay road tax on the 4th floor of City Hall (8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.) (located across from the Police Station. (Parking is Free))

Maps to the New Symphonia Building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO Pass & Registration Section

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN !!!

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.	

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Classifieds

AUTOMOBILE

1994 Nissan Serena

Three-door, asking for \$1,800. JCI good until November 2008. Seats 8, new battery and alternator with 1 year warranty, new fan belt, almost new tires, reliable family van, diesel engine so saves on gas. For more information, call 253-5951 (work) or 253-7152 (home).

Two sergeants looking for car

We are moving to Japan with a family in June '08 and looking to purchase two reliable vehicles once we arrive. If anyone is getting rid of a vehicle and wants to e-mail us at nichol.fuentes@usmc.mil we will look at it once we get there. To contact us, call 443-866-2794 (work) or 832-286-6226 (home).

MISCELLANEOUS

Lost - IPOD and jackets

8GB black IPOD : Can identify with serial number registered online, reward offered for return of IPOD. 2 jackets : 1 (red) and 1 (green), sizes L and XL, both have gray lining and have hoods. On the back both have OKINAWA, JAPAN. Please call 253-2221 (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 iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.

CUSTOMERS!!!

WE ARE ONLY CONDUCTING
THE PAYMENT OF
ROAD TAX & RE-REGISTRATION
ON **APRIL 16, 17 & 18**
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

NO OTHER TRANSACTIONS WILL BE DONE
DURING THESE HOURS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE. THANK YOU!!!

PAY YOUR ROAD TAX AT PMO

APRIL 16, 17 & 18, 2008

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Japanese Tax Officials will be here at PMO!
To pay road tax, you will need your title & payment in the form of yen.

Bring the following information to receive your new decal:

- ❖ Japanese Title
- ❖ Secondary Insurance
- ❖ JCI Insurance
- ❖ 2008 Road Tax Receipt
- ❖ SOFA License & AFID Card
- ❖ Your vehicle

If you have any questions
please contact PMO Pass
& Registration at 253-3161.

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN!!!

Parking will be located in the Chapel Parking Lot.

Leaving it on the mat

Samurai takes pride in craft, career

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Like many high school seniors, Craig Bell has a lot on his plate. He boasts a 3.0 grade point average, is an active member of the Matthew C. Perry student council and soccer team, and works part-time at the IronWorks Gym as a recreation attendant.

Although he admits he'd like to devote more of his schedule to skateboarding or hanging out with friends, his biggest passion requires the little downtime he can find: spent sweat-drenched, sore and struggling to sustain strength.

And as the 2008 Department of Defense Dependents Schools Pacific Far East High School Wrestling Tournament 122-pound champion, Bell said he wouldn't have it any other way.

"Wrestling's one-on-one. That's the best part about it," Bell said. "(If) you go out with a team you can prove yourself, but it's harder to show what you've done. When you go out on a wrestling mat and you're with one other guy, then you know who the true champion was in the round."

The road to becoming champion would begin in the "small, little town" of Amanda, Ohio, nearly six years ago. Bell said it was here he got his first taste of the sport, a taste that would soon become a full-blown obsession.

"When I was younger I watched the stuff on TV, and I thought that's kind of what wrestling was," Bell said, rolling his hazel eyes. "I was told that it wasn't the same, but I still decided to go out (for the junior high team). I went out and tried it and just loved it."

A year later at John Sedgwick Junior High School in Port Orchard, Wash., Bell experienced his first undefeated season. That year, he said, is when becoming the best cemented in his mind.

"I decided it was a pretty good idea to keep going with it," Bell said. "I started wrestling all the time."

Bell continued to improve his skills in Washington until his father David, who works with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, transferred to Iwakuni in July 2007. With the move came some big changes for the aspiring champ.

"I wrestled collegiate (folkstyle) back in the states," Bell said. "Freestyle (the style of wrestling practiced in high schools here) is a lot more patient. There's a lot more that you can do, but at the same time you can't rush or you'll find yourself in trouble."

If switching styles wasn't hard enough, Bell had to deal with the fact his new school had no wrestling team.

He and Mark Lange, M.C. Perry athletic director, worked out a deal where he would compete in the 122-pound spot for E.J. King High School, located at Sasebo Naval Base.

"I felt it was important because he's very passionate about wrestling," Lange said. "Here's a kid who has no choice where he goes - he goes where his parents go."

We looked at the situation, and there was a way," he added.

Though he now had a team to travel to meets with



Craig Bell, top, tries to turn the shoulder of Kubasaki's Josh Bales toward the mat during the 122-pound final in the 2008 Far East High School Wrestling Tournament. Bell, the only M.C. Perry student competing in the tournament, won the match by decision. Photo by Dave Ornauer. Used with permission from Stars and Stripes. Copyright 2008 Stars and Stripes

on the weekends, Bell still needed to find partners for daily training. To remedy this problem, he enlisted the aid of a few good men.

"I had to go out and get Marines," Bell said. "Though it meant scheduling practices at odd hours with wrestlers well over his own weight and experience, Bell said training with the leathernecks was crucial to his success at the Far East tournament."

"A typical day was me going to the gym ... and getting beat up for two hours," Bell said with a laugh. "All of them were pretty tough on me, but it helped a lot. I

"Yeah, people might call you crazy for going out there and getting beat up for six minutes, but to me it's just love."

— Craig Bell
2008 Far East Wrestling Tournament 122-pound champ

got into shape, my endurance improved quite a bit, and it just seemed when I started taking them down it was nothing to take down a guy my size."

Meet after meet "the lone Samurai," a moniker given by his E.J. King teammates, chalked up wins against opponents from mainland Japan, Okinawa and Korea. Though he seemed indomitable on the mat, mother Melinda said the grueling season, with its long hours and strict weight requirements, took a lot from her son.

"We tried to do everything to make sure we didn't eat certain things when he was trying to cut weight ... but when you have younger sisters running around,

you can't always tell them, 'No, you can't have a cookie, your brother's trying to cut weight,'" she said. "Craig had to have discipline in that regard. ... It was difficult for him."

At the end of the season he seems to make up for it," she added in joking reference to his now 132-pound frame.

The hard work finally paid off with the arrival of the Far East championship on Camp Foster, Okinawa. Bell wrestled eight matches over the four-day tournament, beating by decision Kubasaki Dragon Josh Bales

for the title. The 18-year-old said Bales put up a tough fight, but neither fatigue nor the Dragon's energetic home crowd would take what he had worked so hard for.

"We both went out fighting hard and really strong, but I was shooting on him left and right," Bell said.

"It was a really tough week for me - I didn't have many easy matches, so it felt pretty good to come out on top," he added. "I left it all out on the mat, so to say."

Though his season is over and high school career coming to a close, Bell shows no sign of slowing down when it comes to pursuing his goals. Recently accepted into Kent State University, he said he's looking forward to taking the next step attaining a degree in astrophysics and possibly wrestling at the collegiate level.

"I'm going to contact the coach and see if I can't get some kind of wrestling thing going there," Bell said. "If I can get a scholarship out of it, that would be great, but (either way) I want to keep doing it."

I love the sport," he added. "Yeah, people might call you crazy for going out there and getting beat up for six minutes, but to me it's just love."

Mess Hall Menu

MONDAY, March 24

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, March 25

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 with Butter cream Frosting, Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

WEDNESDAY, March 26

Tomato Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Sweet and Sour Prok, 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, March 27

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 28

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 does / Polish Sausage

Sakura Theater

Friday, March 21

7 p.m. Mad Money (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. 10,000 B.C. (PG-13)
Premiere

Saturday, March 22

1:00 p.m. The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (G)
4:00 p.m. 10,000 B.C. (PG-13)
7:00 p.m. 27 Dresses (PG-13)
Premiere
10:00 p.m. Mad Money (PG-13)

Sunday, March 23

1:00 p.m. Mad Money (PG-13)
4:00 p.m. 27 Dresses (PG-13)
7:00 p.m. 10,000 B.C. (PG-13)

Monday, March 24

7:00 p.m. 27 Dresses (PG-13)

Tuesday, March 25

7:00 p.m. The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (G)

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.

Pistons defeat Spurs

Season ends in suspenseful championship doubleheader

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

It was as close as it could be. In the end it was the Pistons' commitment to team play that allowed them to overcome the Spurs, 26-25, in the ages 10-12 winter youth basketball league championship game at IronWorks Gym March 13.

The Pistons were undefeated while the Spurs had one loss when the two teams met for the first time in what could have been the final game of the double-elimination playoffs if the Pistons won.

But the Spurs had other plans.

The teams remained within striking distance of one another throughout the game.

But as he has done most of the season, Spurs guard A.J. Alexander refused to let his team go down without a fight.

With 30 seconds left, after being fouled on a hard drive to the hoop, Alexander stepped up to the line and casually stroked two free throws which eventually gave his team a 16-15 win and one more shot at the Pistons.

Coming off a narrow defeat, the Pistons used the 10-minute break between games to strengthen their focus.

Forming a circle in the middle of their half of the court, they sat and bowed their heads.

"We just lost a close game," said Pistons assistant coach Gregory Flowers. "One of the players said, 'Hey coach, can we pray?' I said, 'yeah.'"

The rededicated Pistons stayed even with the Spurs in the low-scoring first half of game two, which featured the same defensively strong play characteristic of the first game. The teams entered halftime tied at 8.

But the Pistons came out explosively



The Pistons celebrate after winning the ages 10-12 youth basketball championship at IronWorks Gym here March 13. The Pistons overcame a 16-15 loss to the Spurs in game one of the doubleheader with a 26-25 win in game two. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

in the second half, going on a 12-0 run as they distanced themselves from the Spurs.

Pistons center Christopher Estrada's presence in the paint led to several key stops on defense and a team-high 10 points.

"I saw how hard my team was working, and I felt I wasn't doing my part," said the 5'8" Estrada. "I decided to step up and try to help my team."

Estrada attributed his play to his team's positive attitude and support.

"My teammates were smiling and had their heads up the entire game," Estrada said. "I'm happy we did this as a team."

After a scoreless third quarter, the Spurs 17-point effort in the fourth was too little, too late. A pair of cheap baskets before the buzzer sounded made the game appear closer than it actually was.

After the game the Pistons and their families cheered as many ran up and hugged one another.

"The parents provided great support

the entire season," Flowers said. "As long as the child's got support, he's going to perform at a high level."

"I had a good team, great kids," Flowers added.

Though they had to settle for runner-up, the underdog Spurs kept their heads held high.

"We had a good season," said Alexander, who scored 13 of his game-high 19 points in the fourth quarter. "We were pretty much the comeback team all season. We just came up short this time."



Spurs guard A.J. Alexander blocks Pistons guard Joshua Cyars as he attempts a layup during the ages 10-12 youth basketball championship at IronWorks Gym here March 13. Cyars hit a clutch three-pointer in the fourth quarter of game two of the championship which contributed to the Pistons 26-25 win.



Spurs guard A.J. Alexander attempts a free-throw during the ages 10-12 youth basketball championship at IronWorks Gym here March 13. Alexander converted on several crucial attempts from the charity stripe during the Spurs 16-15 game one win.