

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 14, Vol. 1

Friday, April 11, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Samurai claim top spot at annual JROTC competition

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

They wore the uniforms of four different branches of service, came from three different countries and even spoke several different languages. There was one thing they had in common, however: all were here to win.

Iwakuni hosted 12 schools for the three-day 2008 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Far East Competition Monday through Wednesday.

Taking top honors in the annual competition was the air station's own Matthew C. Perry High School.

In second place was E. J. King High School, followed closely for third place by Kadena High School.

"We've been working at this all year

SEE JROTC ON PAGE 3



Sgt. Daniel Hansen, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, assists Roel Daux, a cadet with the Kubasaki High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, with Daux's bench presses during the physical training portion of the 2008 JROTC Far East Competition at IronWorks Gym Wednesday. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

World War II aviators tour base, share past with present pilots



Tetsuo Kondo, a former World War II Japanese fighter pilot, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Bret Saunders, Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 pilot, during the Imperial Navy Surviving Aviator's Association's visit to the air station April 4. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

As young men, most barely out of their teens, they answered the call of a country at war. Theirs was a dangerous mission, one that often meant a one-way ticket to an early grave.

Nerves of steel and unwavering patriotism are necessities when you're staring certain death in the face at several hundred miles an hour.

Today their bodies bear testament to the passage of time. Many are bespectacled with white or silver hair, some walk with canes, one must balance himself on the arm of a peer when getting off the bus. But looking into the eyes of any of these gentlemen reveals that same youthful vibrance, that combination of courage and pride displayed more than 60 years ago in the cockpits of some of the most infamous weapons of World War II.

Members of the Imperial Navy Surviving Aviators' Association came to tour the air station and share their history with pilots here Friday afternoon.

The visit began with a brief and tour of the current Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force headquarters building. There the

group posed for a photo before a quick stop at Building 360, once Iwakuni's headquarters for the Imperial Navy, which now houses station facilities departments.

Next was a windshield tour of the base. A bus took the visitors around the harbor and across the JMSDF flight line, where many curiously watched the Japanese sea planes and helicopters being serviced, taking off and landing.

"We had the opportunity to see operations on the airfield today, and as old memories pulled us we were reminded of ourselves many years ago," said Jun Takahashi, a former fighter pilot who now serves as the CEO of the Japan Flight League. "We too once committed our lives and went to war in hope of prosperity for our country and happiness for our families."

The day's final stop was at the officers' club, where the former Imperial Navy pilots were welcomed by station Commanding Officer Col. Michael O'Halloran.

"I've heard so much about your organization," O'Halloran told the visitors, some of whom travelled from as far as Tokyo to attend. "We were discussing a couple of months ago your meetings, and I said it would be great if you could come here

SEE PILOTS ON PAGE 3

INSIDE IWAKUNI



Top chefs stir up old tricks during competition

5



Cherry blossoms attract visitors

6-7



Varsity basketball team starts season 2-0

12

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

By Katherine Cruise
MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

Celebrating an achievement, toasting a special occasion, relaxing after a bad day, bonding with friends, trying to escape reality...

There are plenty of reasons why people drink.

If you are like many Americans, you drink alcohol occasionally. For most adults, moderate alcohol use causes few, if any, problems. But for some, any alcohol use may lead to significant health problems or affect the ability to perform optimally at work. Trying to figure out if there is a problem isn't easy, but a self-assessment is a good place to start.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month and the Department of Defense is offering service members and their families the opportunity to take an anonymous alcohol self-assessment online or by phone at <http://www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org> and 877-877-3647.

The alcohol self-assessment is a brief series of questions that gauges an individual's likelihood for an alcohol use disorder. The online and telephone

program, which also includes self-assessments for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, generalized anxiety disorder, and bipolar disorder – is available year-round, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Alcohol Facts:

1. Young men, aged 18-25, consistently have been found to have the highest prevalence of heavy alcohol use within the military.

2. The rate for heavy alcohol use among young military males is approximately twice the rate of their civilian counterparts.

3. Women overall drink less than men but are more likely to experience adverse consequences, including damage to the heart muscle, liver, and brain, trauma resulting from auto crashes, interpersonal violence and death.

4. Alcohol can damage a fetus at any stage of pregnancy. Damage can occur in the earliest weeks of pregnancy, even before a woman knows that she is pregnant. Therefore, no amount of alcohol consumption can be considered safe during pregnancy.

5. Moderate alcohol use is defined

as up to two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women and older people. One drink equals one 12-ounce bottle of beer or wine cooler, one 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits.

The goal of the screening is to educate military personnel and their families about the potential risks associated with drinking.

Through education, awareness and understanding, individuals can make informed decisions about their drinking behaviors.

Take an anonymous alcohol screening year-round at www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org or 877-877-3647

Alcohol screenings are a part of the Mental Health Self-Assessment Program (MHSAP), a voluntary, anonymous mental health and alcohol self-assessment and referral program offered to military families and service members. It is offered online and via the telephone 24/7, as well as through in-person events. This program is offered without charge through Force Health Protection and Readiness, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs.



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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 iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil.

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MALS-12 spouses hit L.I.N.K.S., learn lessons in military life



The Lifestyles, Insight, Networking Knowledge Skills program wrapped up its first unit-specific session when a group of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 spouses graduated the five-hour program at Yujo Hall Friday. Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Jerry Bailey, station senior enlisted advisor, were on hand to congratulate participants and pose for a photo. As an incentive, Marauder Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Nicholas Knight offered the graduates' spouses a three-day weekend. The next L.I.N.K.S. session will be held April 18. For more information, contact Marine Corps Family Team Building at 253-3754. Photo courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer Don Saechang



"Morning Air Strike" — A live 3-hour radio show, featuring popular music, local guests, news, sports and recreation information. Monday – Thursday from 6 – 9 a.m. and Friday's from 6 – 8 a.m., except holidays on Power 1575.

JROTC FROM PAGE 1

day one," said Justin Clement, Perry's JROTC unit commander. "It feels awesome."

The event began with a test of the cadets' marksmanship skills. Students were required to run to different stations and utilize the prone, kneeling and standing shooting positions to hit a total of 60 small targets with pellet guns.

First-place shooter Giancarlo Lambert, a cadet from Zama American High School, said the course of fire was different than what he was used to, but that patience proved to be his saving grace.

"Me personally, I hadn't had a lot of time to practice—maybe three or four times all year," Lambert said. "But I tried to focus on what I was doing. Thank God that helped me not miss any targets."

Tuesday the cadets donned their dress uniforms, grabbed their rifles and guidons, and took to the IronWorks Gym sports courts for the drill competition.

Each team was required to perform a variety of movements under the watchful eyes of a panel of 11 judges, most of whom had prior experience on the drill field.

Having judges from all branches of service was important because each team is going off a different drill manual, said Staff Sgt. Julia Arambula, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron postal clerk and former drill instructor.

"(There is) a lot of good talent here," she added. "I can tell these kids put in a lot of effort, and you can tell that they take it serious. ... They want to be successful."

On Wednesday came the final, and for many, most challenging part of the series: the physical training competition.

The cadets were run through a gauntlet of events such as bench presses, sprints, pull-ups and a tug-of-war, testing their strength and stamina.

Seoul American High School JROTC cadet Alyssa Grey impressed several Marine judges by showing up many of her male peers with a whopping 18 pull-ups.

According to Grey, being physically fit is important not only as part of her JROTC training regiment, but as a cornerstone for her future.

"I love (physical training)," she said, barely out of breath after her performance on the pull-up bar. "It teaches leadership and discipline. That's something that's important in the military, and that's what I want to do after college."

The (JROTC) program prepares me for that," Grey added. Wednesday evening the students wrapped up the competition with a dance at the M.C. Perry High School, where the overall winner was announced. Retired Lt. Col. Scot Seitz, M. C. Perry's senior Marine instructor, said he couldn't be more proud of his cadets, who for the first time have a banner to show for their hard work.

"It was a great thing for the school," Seitz said. "As the smallest school in the Far East, they don't have a banner as a team for taking any Far East event."

My hope is we can gain some momentum as the smallest school and say, 'Hey, we're not as challenged as we may have thought we were.'"

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 interested in volunteering their time to help keep programming running. Any questions, comments or concerns can be directed at 253-5631.

Asian Pacific American Heritage

May is recognized as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Special Emphasis Program is searching for individuals who would like to volunteer with the Asian Pacific American planning committee being formed. Volunteers will be asked to assist in planning events aboard the air station in honor of the month. If interested, call Master Sgt. Derrick Hart at 253-5530.

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

PILOTS FROM PAGE 1

to Iwakuni to have a meeting. ... We gather today in the spirit of friendship (and) also professionalism."

"I'm sure that there's a lot we can learn from each other," he added.

The large group of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators gathered at the club wasted no time getting to know their guests. Sharing stories and enjoying the camaraderie, two different generations found the common ground that unites fighter pilots both

former and present.

"Though they were our grandfathers' adversaries, individually they were all warriors," said Capt. Ernie Drake, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 F/A-18 pilot. "It was the countries that set us apart. Basically, they fought for their country, just like we're fighting for our country. That's the similarity."

I thought it was a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he added. "It's rare, especially 10 years from now, to be able to speak to a World War II pilot."



Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force officers stand with members of the Imperial Navy Surviving Aviators' Association in front of the JMSDF Iwakuni headquarters building April 4. The group came to tour the air station and share stories with U.S. pilots. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Moms, dads join students for 'Parent Lunch Day'



Chief Petty Officer Follis Davison, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron religious programs specialist, and his wife, Dayle, eat lunch with their daughter, Chloe, a second-grader, during "Parent Lunch Day" at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School April 3. More than 100 parents participated in the event, which was part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

From New England with love

Company's coffee contribution makes for copious care package

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

It doesn't take an elaborate care package to brighten the day of a service member deployed in support of Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom. Little things like razors, socks, deodorant or magazines can make all the difference for someone without regular access to such provisions.

So you can imagine a New Englander's surprise when he checks the mail and finds a rather large shipment of a favorite hometown beverage.

Though it may sound cliché, a taste of home is just what Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Lindquist, Iwakuni Marine Corps Community Services staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, got when he received 24 pounds of Dunkin' Donuts Coffee this Easter.

Throughout the course of his enlistment, Lindquist's mother Elizabeth has sent a care package or two. The particular brand of java is no strange request from her son who is now serving his third tour in Al Taquaddam.

"Every year we'd (ask), 'What do you want?'" she

said. "And it would be 'Coffee. I miss my Dunkin' Donuts coffee.'

Those New England boys love the Patriots, Celtics, Red Sox, Bruins and Dunkin' Donuts coffee," she added.

Procuring and mailing the brew was a fairly easy

"There should be more organizations and more companies that are making money contributing something that's going to give pleasure to these fellas over there that are fighting for us."

- Edward Lindquist

Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Lindquist's Father

task while in the United States. After accepting a teaching position at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School, however, she and her husband Edward's recent move to Iwakuni would complicate the process as there are no Dunkin' Donuts in Japan.

"This time I wrote to Dunkin' Donuts and told them what had happened," she said.

To the couple's surprise, the company showed its

support by upping the modest shipment their son usually receives at no cost to the Lindquists.

"I went to the post office, and the man there said, 'You've got a big box here.' But since I had my cane, he said 'I don't think you're going to be able to carry it,'" Edward explained. "I thought to myself, 'What the heck could this be?' My wife and I came back and it was a whole case of Dunkin' Donuts (coffee), 24 pounds to give out to all his men."

The Lindquists said they appreciate the company's generous donation and know it will be enjoyed by tired and thirsty men and women downrange. And while it might not result in a whole case of coffee, they remind others that a phone call or letter can result in a well-deserved touch of home for deployed loved ones.

"I really appreciate Dunkin' Donuts doing this because my son loves their coffee," Elizabeth said. "I think more companies should be doing these (types of) things."

"She's right," added her husband. "There should be more organizations and more companies that are making money contributing something that's going to give pleasure to these fellas over there that are fighting for us."

Shoppers swarm Mac Dome for Spring Bazaar



Station bargain hunters swarmed the Mac Dome Friday through Sunday for the Spring Bazaar, an annual event that draws a number of vendors offering everything from antique furniture and rugs to sportswear and knick knacks of all shapes and sizes. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Messhall leaders show they 'still got it'

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Messhall leaders demonstrated their skills in the kitchen during the Master Chef Competition at the R. G. Robinson Messhall April 2.

Three two-person teams consisting of senior leaders from the food service office and the north and southside messhalls prepared full-course meals during the friendly competition.

A panel of nine judges, which included four Japanese civilian messhall employees and five Marines, judged the food on its appeal, presentation and taste. The teams' menus included chicken cordon bleu, Chinese five-spice chicken, savory sauerbraten, rosemary potatoes, German coleslaw and vegetable stir fry.

"My favorites were the pot roast, strawberry shortcake and dinner rolls," said Sgt. Joseph Larue, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialist. "The pot roast was very tender and flavorful, and the rolls tasted the way rolls should taste."

While many people would agree taste is an important quality, the competition also tested the chefs' ability to make a meal appealing to the eye and presented in a way which enhanced the dining experience.

Team one's chocolate fountain centerpiece, which was surrounded by bite-sized pieces of colorful fruit and creatively cut flowers, probably helped it garner points in the presentation category.

"It's something that we learn when we're young Marines and working at different messhalls, and learning stuff from other Marines," said team one member

Gunnery Sgt. Victorino Dumaslan, southside messhall manager. "I've been in 17 to 18 years—everything I've learned starting coming back to me."

Team two, also known as the "Legends of the Mess," representing the food service office, displayed their talent by preparing a meal they called "A Taste of Germany," which included mulligatawny soup, German griddle cakes and apple streusel cobbler. Team three, representing the northside messhall, rounded out the competition with its five-spice chicken, vegetable stir fry, pork-fried rice and strawberry shortcake.

"The purpose of the competition was to show the Marines that we could go off the (messhall) product list and prepare a high-quality meal," said team three member Master Sgt. Kevin Walters, northside messhall manager.

After the judges tasted all the food and made their marks, the results were tallied. Team three took third while the Legends of the Mess placed second. That left team one, whose menu included chicken cordon bleu, green bean casserole and baked apples, the winners.

Dumaslan said the event was less of a competition than it was an opportunity for messhall staff to get together and showcase their skills.

"It builds camaraderie and shows our young Marines that when we tell them to do something, we know what we're talking about," Dumaslan said. We, as staff NCO's, are just trying to show the young guys that we can go out there and compete and that we still have the knowledge. We haven't forgotten our (military occupational specialty) skills."

Dumaslan added the southside messhall is the best messhall he's worked at and he's proud of the effort the Marines who work there put in every day.



Master Sgt. Kevin Walters, Northside messhall manager, serves his team's meal of Chinese five-spice chicken, pork fried rice and vegetable stir fry to a patron during the Master Chef Competition at the R. G. Robinson Messhall April 2. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



A Japanese civilian messhall employee cuts a piece of chicken cordon bleu during the Master Chef Competition at the R. G. Robinson Messhall April 2. A panel of nine judges evaluated the food at the competition.



Table one's chocolate fountain enhanced the table's presentation during the Master Chef Competition.



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, congratulates Gunnery Sgt. Victorino Dumaslan and Staff Sgt. Joel Gittings, both with the southside mess hall, after they won the Master Chef Competition here April 2.

Iwakuni spring in full bloom

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Thousands of visitors flocked to Iwakuni's Kintai Bridge in Kikko Park to stroll among a sea of beautiful cherry blossoms in full bloom over the weekend.

Among those visitors were service members from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, who traveled out the gate to enjoy the sunny weather and serene sights Japan has to offer.

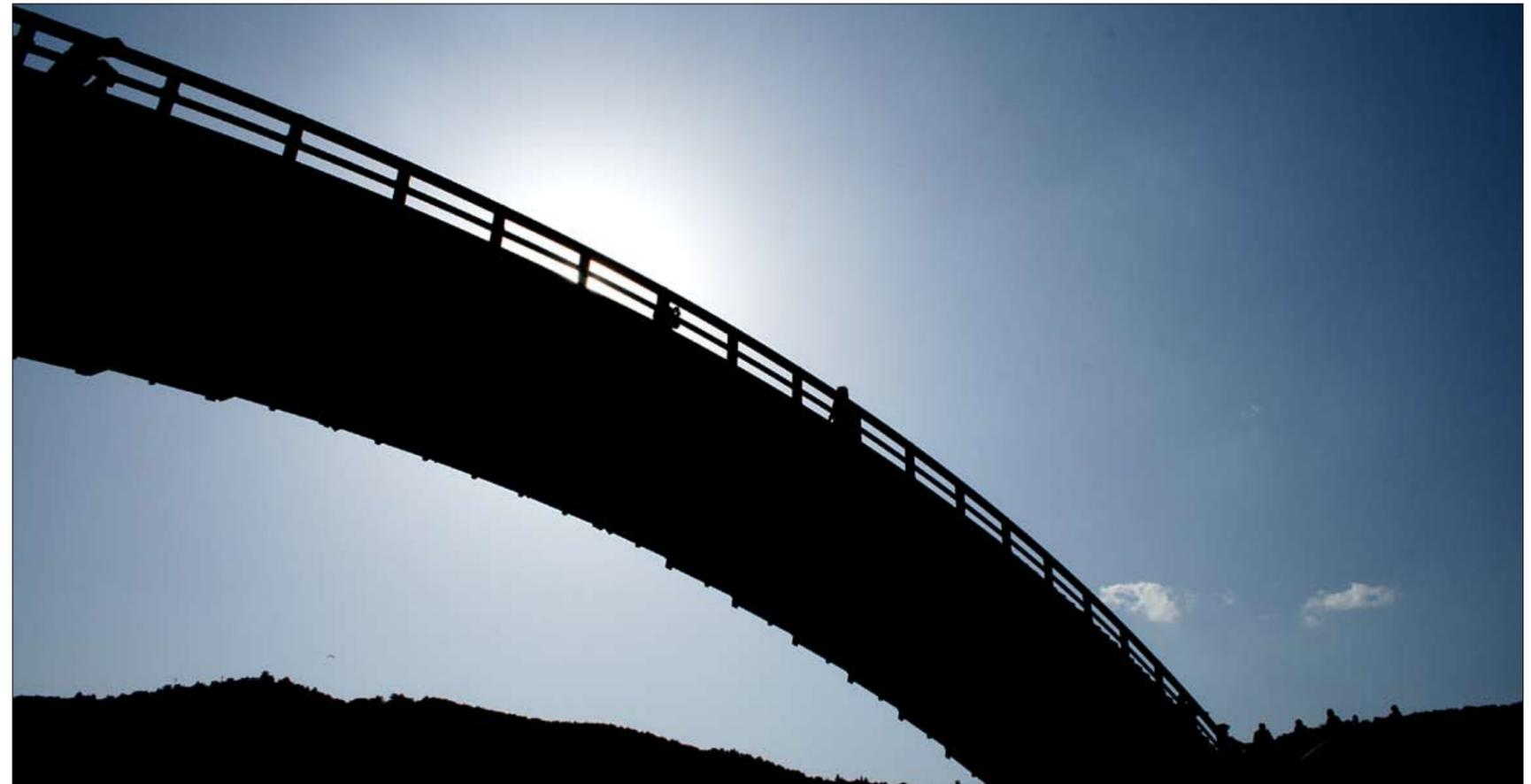
The area also gave military and Japanese families an opportunity to dive into the local culture, snap a few photos for a scrapbook or fire up the grill.

Hanami, also known as "flower viewing," started March 28 when the cherry blossoms first began to show. The blossom forecast is announced each year by the weather bureau and is watched carefully by those planning hanami as the blossoms only last a week or two.

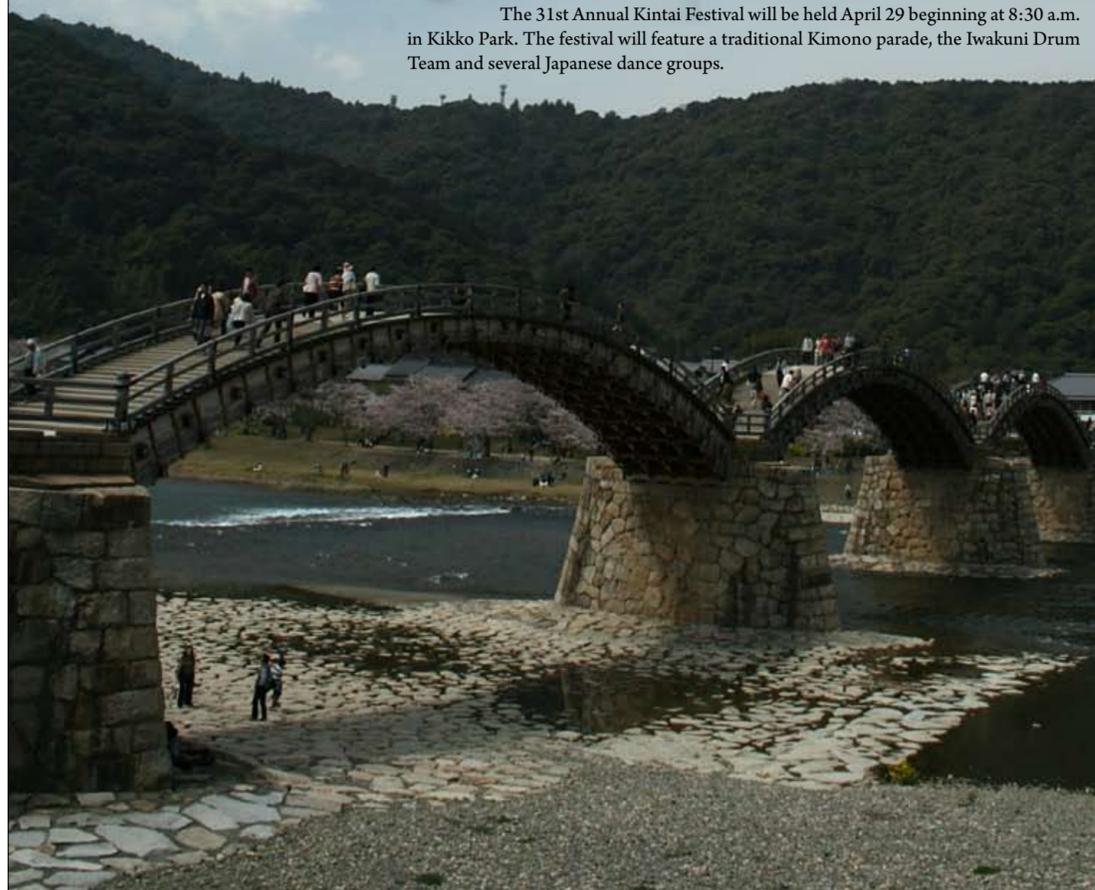
For a minimal fee, explorers trekked across the Kintai Bridge, which is a Japanese landmark with a lush history dating back to the 17th century. The bridge is constructed of wood and nails, and is the gateway to the Nishiki river waterfront and a sea of cherry blossoms along its banks. The Kintai is one of three famous bridges in Japan and is one of the most visited areas in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The reconstructed Iwakuni Castle, which overlooks Iwakuni on a small mountain, is another sight visitors often explore. The Castle features a museum inside.

The 31st Annual Kintai Festival will be held April 29 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Kikko Park. The festival will feature a traditional Kimono parade, the Iwakuni Drum Team and several Japanese dance groups.



Iwakuni's Kintai Bridge and its area scenery attracted thousands of visitors April 4. The monumental cherry blossoms were in full bloom along the banks of the Nishiki River. Photo by Cpl. Josh Cox



Visitors enjoy Iwakuni's Kintai Bridge and its area scenery April 4. Thousands of people flocked to the bridge over the weekend. Photo by Cpl. Josh Cox



The Iwakuni Castle stands high above a hill behind a blooming cherry blossom tree April 4. Hanami, also known as "flower viewing," started March 28 when the cherry blossoms first began to show. The blossom forecast is announced each year by the weather bureau, and is watched carefully by those planning hanami as the blossoms only last a week or two. Photo by Cpl. Lendus B. Casey



Japanese couples and families line the coast of the Nishiki River near the Kintai bridge to celebrate the return of Spring and bask in the beauty of the short-lived cherry blossoms April 4. The cherry blossoms first bloomed on March 28 and will last for only a short while. Photo by Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

AROUND THE CORPS

Marines make kids happy during patrol

helps show Iraqi families that they are there to help

CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN
MULTI NATIONAL FORCE - WEST

HIT, Iraq (April 1, 2008) — Lance Cpl. Edwin S. Contreras, an assaultman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, knows the best way to let the Iraqi people know that Marines are here to help is through the children.

Marines with Company I conducted a security patrol March 29 through the city of Hit, Iraq, to ensure all is running smoothly in the city.

"The purpose of the patrol was to provide security for the people and to build rapport with them," said Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Barnes, 21, a team leader with Company I from Fairbanks, Alaska. "We're still looking for suspicious things or anything we can do to hinder insurgent activity."

As Marines walked through the city they handed out treats to kids who approached the patrols. Although some of the kids seemed timid at first, once they saw the candy their fears disappeared. Marines felt that making the extra effort for the kids would demonstrate the good Marines are doing.

"Giving out candy is good for our rapport with the people," said Contreras, 19, from Pico Rivera, Calif. "We win over the hearts of the kids, the parents see that and we win the people over."

Barnes understands the importance of making the kids happy, but to keep kids from disrupting his patrol he had to tell them through an interpreter to keep their distance.

"We don't always bring candy out because when we do they like to swarm our patrols," Barnes said. "We only do it now and then so they know we're trying to help."

When Marines stopped at houses to speak with residents of the neighborhood, the kids followed and



Lance Cpl. Austin L. Barnhill patrols through the city of Hit, Iraq, March 29 with Iraqi children following close behind. Barnhill, 23, a rifleman from Riverside, Calif., assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, spent part of the patrol handing candy out to kids. Photos by Cpl. Erik Villagran

watched Marines post security.

"We got to sit down with some people and talk about some interesting stuff," Barnes said. "We try to put a face to the Marines so they know we're human too."

Marines asked questions through an interpreter and spent the majority of the time listening to what the people had to say. They received insight on how the community feels about the Iraq Provisional Security Force, Iraqi Police and Marines.

Marines left the last house on their patrol feeling good about how their patrol went.

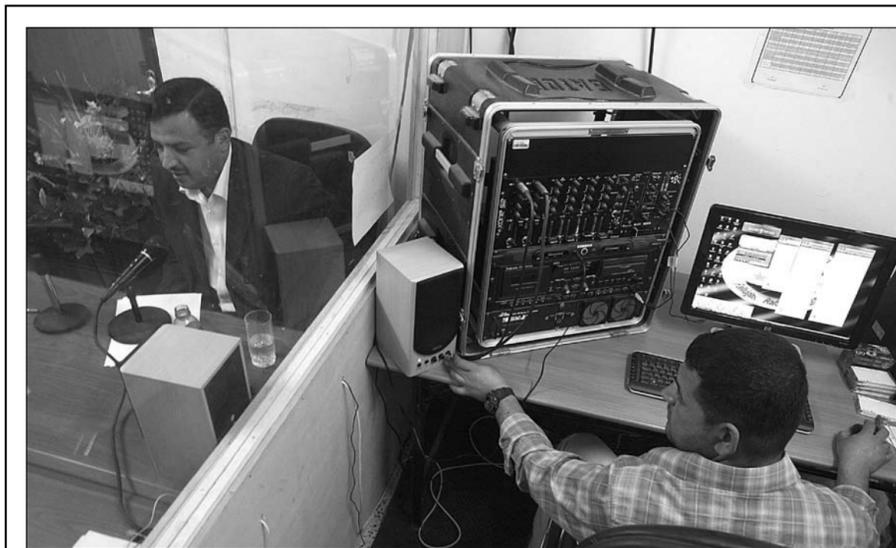
"The patrol went smooth," Contreras said. "We got to talk to a lot of people. Most of our patrols are about building rapport with the people."



Lance Cpl. Edwin S. Contreras, 19, an assaultman from Pico Rivera, Calif., assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, gives an Iraqi boy a lollipop March 29 in Hit, Iraq.

Fallujah citizens' voices heard over airwaves

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Fallujah Mayor Saad Owad answers a radio listener's question during a call-in show at the Fallujah Public Radio station March 27. Citizens called in or e-mailed questions for the mayor during the program, exercising their new found right to freedom of speech. The questions dealt with topics such as politics, fuel shortages, education, jobs and corruption. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel C. LeBlanc



Community Briefs

Friendship day volunteers needed - American Red Cross
Volunteers are needed to assist us in our Friendship day festivities. For more information or sign up call the American Red Cross at 253-4525.

Spanish Fellowship Services
Servicios En Espanol, Spanish Fellowship, Y Comida Hispana Como Hecha en Casa Todos Los Domingos A La 1 p.m. En El Chapel. For more information, call 253-5145.

Holocaust Remembrance
Days of Remembrance: April 27 - May 4, Holocaust Remembrance Day: May 2
The station will observe the Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 2 from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Station Chapel. For more information, call 253-4186 or e-mail: robert.raines@usmc.mil.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
April 8 - 10, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Have you ever wondered why some people are more effective in their jobs or personal lives? Wouldn't you like to become more effective? Attending a three-day 7 Habits workshop will help you change the fundamental ways you approach your job, relationships, and can even help turn problems into opportunities. Sign via the intranet under CPIO Training or call 253-3508. Check our web link for additional training opportunities. *Seven Habits Courses are also available in Japanese*

Introduction to Lean Six Sigma (LSS)
April 16, 8 a.m. - noon, Lean Six Sigma (LSS) is part of a set of tools used to help individuals remain competitive

in today's workforce. The introduction to LSS course is a 4-hour intensive track which covers the basic philosophy and concepts of Lean and Six Sigma. During the LSS course we will explore the basic concepts and history of LSS, the Navy/Marine Corps LSS strategy, process improvement team roles, workspace optimization (SS), process flowcharts and Waste Reduction through Value Stream Mapping (VSM), the DMAIC process and much, much more... Sign via the Intranet CPIO Training link or call 253-3508. Check

our web link for additional training. *LSS is also offered in Japanese.*

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Special Emphasis Program is looking for individuals who would like to volunteer to be on the Asian Pacific American planning committee being formed. Volunteers will be asked to assist in planning events aboard the Air Station in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage month. If interested, please call 253-5530 or e-mail at derrick.hart@usmc.mil for more information.

P.K. Smith Memorial Golf Classic (Aviation Ordnance Golf Tournament)
April 11, 11:30 a.m. shotgun

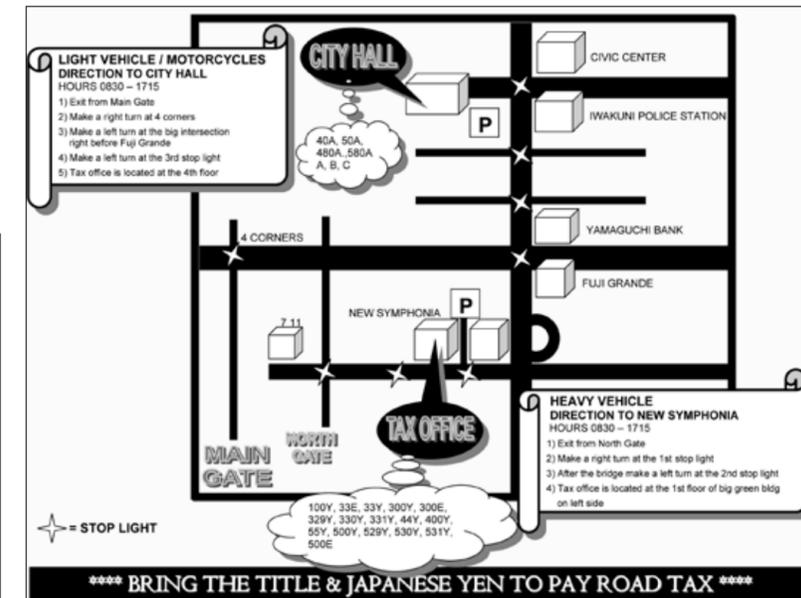
start. Chipping and Putting Contest. Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin - Everyone that plays gets a free golf ball and tee set. Four Man Scramble, free burgers, hotdogs, and drinks, First, second, and third place prizes. For more information, call 253-6131.

TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) for Family Members
Do you know what your benefits are? Command Sponsorship now required for OCONUS Cost Shares. For information about the TRICARE Dental Program, contact the TRICARE Service Center at 253-3072. Or access the benefit handbook at www.tricare dental program.com or by calling 1-800-866-8499, 24 hours a day.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Confession
	Sunday	5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
		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.



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.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1990 Nissan Serena Van

Seats 8, reliable family van. New battery, alternator, fan belt and almost new tires. JCI good until Nov. 2008. \$1000 or best offer. Diesel engine so good on gas. Call (home) 253-7152.

1995 Mitsubishi Delica

For sale 1995 Mitsubishi Delica 4x4 van, turbo diesel, great fuel mileage. JCI good until October 2008, \$2500. For more information, call (work) 253-5123 or (home) 253-2146.

1992 Mitsubishi Pajero

Drives great! JCI good through Sept '09. Four-wheel drive, strong A/C, CD player, new tires. Available April 21. For more information, call 253-2478 (home) or 253-5348 (work).

2003 Yamaha YZF-F1

Mechanically sound and runs great. Only 2,500 miles (4,000 km)! JCI until June 2009. Many after-market parts including fender eliminator, exhaust, and polished chassis. Practically brand new and it never disappoints! Bike new costs \$12,000. Asking for \$5,900 or best offer. Please call 080-3506-4367 (cell) or e-mail at justin.e.allison@usmc.mil

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.

Got news?

If so, e-mail your story ideas to iwakuni.pao@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 Menu

MONDAY April 14, 2008

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

TUESDAY April 15, 2008

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

WEDNESDAY April 16, 2008

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

THURSDAY April 17, 2008

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

FRIDAY April 18, 2008

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

ROAD TAX Due April 2008

Road Tax must be paid between **April 1, 2008 - April 30, 2008**

HEAVY VEHICLE:

PLATE	COST
100Y	¥ 32,000
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E, 329Y, 330Y, 331Y	¥ 22,000 (4,501cc and over)
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y, 529Y, 530Y, 531Y, 500E	¥ 19,000 (4,500cc and below)
	¥ 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 building.)

LIGHT VEHICLE / MOTORCYCLE:

PLATE	COST
50A, 40A, 480A, 589A	¥ 3,000
YAMA A, B	¥ 1,000
IWAKUNI A, B, C	¥ 500

Light Vehicles and 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)

- Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to PMO Pass and Registration to receive your new base decal:
 - Japanese Title
 - Secondary Insurance
 - 2008 Road tax receipt
 - JCI Insurance
 - The vehicle / motorcycle

- To avoid the long lines of the "last minute rush" at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal in early April!

- On Wednesday, April 30, 2008, the PMO Pass and Registration Section will only be open for renewing decals, no other business will take place during this time; i.e., driver's license, vehicle transfers, etc.

- Failure to pay road tax can result in the impoundment of your vehicle.

If you have any questions, please contact Pass and Registration Section at 253-3161

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

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN !!!

Sakura Theater

Friday, April 11, 2008

11:30 a.m. Meet The Spartans (PG-13)
7 p.m. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. Fool's Gold (PG-13)

Saturday, April 12, 2008

1 p.m. Fool's Gold (PG-13)
4 p.m. The Eye (PG-13)
7 p.m. Shine A Light (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13)

Sunday, April 13, 2008

1 p.m. Shine A Light (PG-13)
4 p.m. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13)
7 p.m. Fool's Gold (PG-13)

Monday, April 14, 2008

7 p.m. Meet The Spartans (PG-13)

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

7 p.m. Untraceable (R)

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.

Untouchables improve 7-1, win 62-32 over Southside

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With a relentless offensive attack and solid defense, the "Untouchables" dominated "Southside" 62-32 during intramural basketball action at IronWorks Gym Monday.

Untouchables shooting guard Steve Navar led all scorers with 16, which included a 3-pointer that ended the game early because of the league's "30 point rule."

The two physical teams battled for control of the game early, with the Untouchables coming out on the winning side of the offensive rebounding and points in the paint categories. Midway through the first half, they established a 15-6 lead.

"Our key was finishing plays," said Untouchables coach Mario Brown after the game. "When we finish plays, we're a real tough team to beat."

Untouchables' forward Richard White's 3-point play after a Southside turnover in the backcourt gave the Untouchables a 26-9 lead late in the first. Point guard Gener Ancelet's free throws increased the lead to 33-13 shortly before the break.

"They're a little more polished, probably got a little more practice in," said Southside shooting guard Christopher Jordan. "We need to rebound a lot better and get back on defense."

Both teams continued their aggressive play in the second half. Though Southside showed signs of life during a couple of possessions — such as when small

forward David Hartless crossover-dribbled past Untouchable defenders and finished with a soft, one-handed floater on the run, it lacked the productiveness it desperately needed to get back in the game. The Untouchables, meanwhile, continued to attack the hoop, increasing their lead to 51-27 with less than seven minutes to play.

"There aren't many teams that can compete with us when we come out and do what we're supposed to do and we jump on them early," Brown said. "We got a team effort from everybody tonight."

Despite the large point margin between the two teams, both continue to play with determination and heart. One Southside player hit the deck after going up for a defensive rebound and the Untouchables got back on defense with the same intensity they did in the game's opening minutes.

"It's a love of the game, that's it" said Untouchables center Robert Kennedy about his team's effort throughout the duration of the game. "Sometimes it gets heated out there, but that's part of the game."

Whether they're on the winning side or losing one, players on both teams benefited by getting out on the court after work, according to Kennedy.

"We look forward to playing basketball everyday," he said. "It's a great stress reliever."



Untouchables shooting guard Steve Navar dribbles past Southside small forward Juan Bravo during an intramural basketball game at IronWorks Gym Monday. Navar scored a game-high 16 points, including a three-ball from the baseline which gave the Untouchables a game-ending 30-point lead and 62-32 win. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Scoring summary:

	1st	2nd	Total
Untouchables	38	24	62
Southside	13	19	32

Scoring leaders:

Untouchables: S. Navar 16, R. White 13

Southside: D. Hartless 11, D. Gee 9, C. Jordan 8



Southside small forward Christopher Jordan shoots a free throw during an intramural basketball game at IronWorks Gym Monday. Jordan scored 8 points in Southside's 62-32 loss to the Untouchables.

Varsity team jumpstarts season, score back-to-back wins

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Iwakuni Varsity Basketball Team won its first two games of the regular season of the Yamaguchi Prefecture Basketball League at Toyo Kohan Gymnasium in Kudamatsu City Sunday.

The squad defeated Nihon Seishi 89-76 in the first game before overwhelming Tosoh 93-68 in the second.

The 2-0 start puts the team in position to eclipse last year's 9-1 record and runner-up finish in the playoffs.

"We're off to a nice start," said point guard Derrick Peet, a 26-year-old from Benton Harbor, Michigan. "I see us going all the way this year."

Along with a solid performance in the league, the team, which consists of many players from the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron "Stacked" intramural basketball team, plans to use the competition to prepare for the Marine Corps Far East Regional Basketball Tournament in Okinawa later this year.

"We got some tough ball players down there in Okinawa," said shooting guard Anthony Alexander, a 38-year-old from Brooklyn. "We need to practice more to develop unit cohesion."

Alexander added though the team's greatest attribute is its athleticism – which gives it the edge over many of its smaller opponents in the Japanese league – the team needs to work on its ball movement.

"We're not quite where we need to be," Alexander said. "We gotta keep working and practicing."

One of this year's standout players who has played a key role as a member of the undefeated Stacked team and in the Japanese league is forward Allin Valville, who scored a team-high 21 points in the first of the two games Sunday.

"(He) has really stepped up from not even playing organized basketball a couple of years ago to being one of the league's leading scorers," Alexander said.

While the team has its sights set on playing winning basketball, some of the players often take a step back to look at the competition from a broader perspective.

"I never thought I'd be playing basketball in Japan," Peet said. "I never even thought I'd come to Japan. It's a nice experience."

Along with playing their best, the players realize they have an even bigger



Iwakuni varsity basketball team point guard Samuel Anderson shoots a free-throw during a Yamaguchi Prefecture Basketball League regular season game at the Toyo Kohan Gymnasium in Kudamatsu City Sunday. Despite shooting just 1-for-13 from the line in the first game, Anderson remained poised, contributing for Iwakuni on both sides of the ball. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

role when they leave the station's gates.

"I feel we come over here and set a good example for the United States,"

Peet said. "We're friendly with them and they're always nice to us."

The Japanese players also see a benefit of competing with their American counterparts on the court.

"We love the opportunity to play against Americans because we know not many Japanese get the chance to do it," said Tosoh shooting guard Michihiro Maesaka.

Maesaka said the Americans size advantage is a challenge that adds to the rewarding experience of having them in the league.

"There are very few big players in Japan," Maesaka said. "The Japanese game is about speed and finesse. The American's is all about power."

Season play continues into August when the nine teams vie for the league championship. Games are typically held one weekend a month. Station residents interested in accompanying the team or finding out more should contact Marine Corps Community Services Athletics at 253-6035.

Iwakuni varsity basketball team center Stephen Benjamin goes up for a dunk during a Yamaguchi Prefecture Basketball League regular season game at the Toyo Kohan Gymnasium in Kudamatsu City Sunday.

