

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Marine receives 1 year, dishonorable discharge in general court-martial

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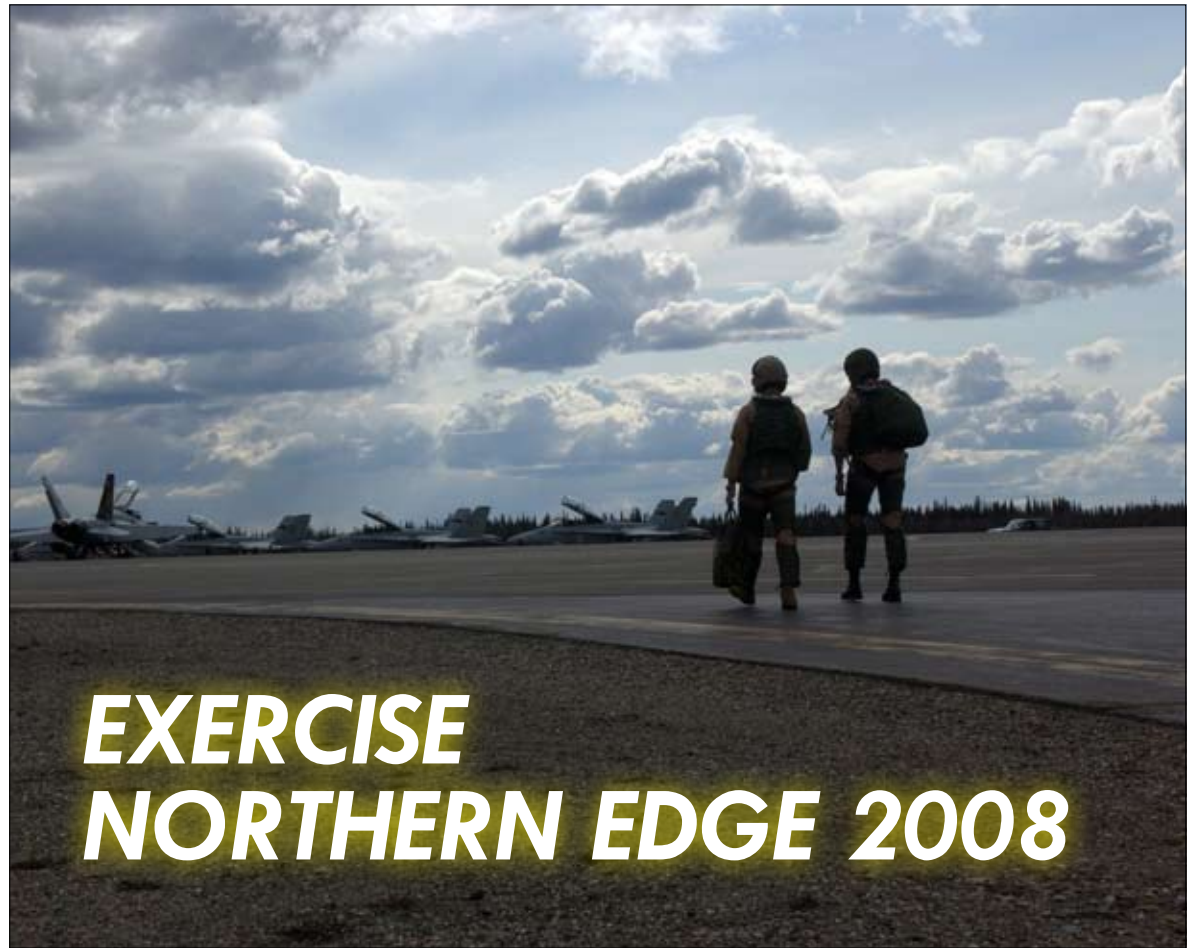
A ruling was announced May 8 in the general court-martial case of Lance Cpl. Larry A. Dean, a Marine assigned to Combat Logistics Company 36, for his involvement in incidents that took place in Hiroshima on Oct. 13 and 14, 2007.

Dean, a 20-year-old who enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 10, 2006, was found guilty of violating Articles 81, 92 and 120 under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for conspiracy to commit indecent acts as well as conspiracy to violate military orders regarding liberty, alcohol and fraternization.

He was found not guilty of conspiracy to kidnap or rape, or of receiving stolen property.

The military judge for the proceedings was Maj. Charles C. Hale, who sentenced Dean to no more than one year in prison, reduction in rank to private, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge.

U.S. Marine Corps personnel sentenced to confinement of one year or longer or a punitive discharge automatically have their cases forwarded to the Navy-Marine Court of Criminal Appeals for review.



EXERCISE NORTHERN EDGE 2008

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska -- Pilots from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 walk to their aircraft before a training mission in support of Northern Edge 2008 at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska. NE08 gives pilots the opportunity to sharpen their skills against aggressors from other services, in addition to training to respond to threats in the northern Pacific theater. Photo by Sgt. Rocky Smith

SEE EDGE ON PAGE 5

Joint Commission accredits BHC Iwakuni

LANCE CPL.
JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Medical Inspector General and the Joint Commission reaccredited the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic, Iwakuni's Branch Health Clinic, April 25 following their visit to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka and several facilities under its directorate, including the BHC.

The Joint Commission is a civilian-based organization that performs triennial inspections to

demonstrate to the public military medical facilities meet the same quality standards civilian U.S. hospitals do.

Their accreditation and certification is recognized worldwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting health care performance standards.

"All in all, it was a fantastic group effort, like winning the Super Bowl, World Series, Stanley Cup and World Cup all in one day," Navy Capt. Michael Krentz,

SEE BHC ON PAGE 3

MWSS-171 maintains Cobra Gold operations

CPL. JOSH COX &
CPL. ANDREW C. MILNER
COMBINED JOINT
INFORMATION BUREAU

U TAPHAO AIR FIELD, Thailand (May 9, 2008) – It takes a lot more than aircraft and a runway to operate an active airfield, thus service members from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 are providing the critical nuts and bolts to sustain flight missions here.

The squadron is currently deployed in support of Exercise Cobra Gold 08, a combined, joint-

training evolution and humanitarian effort held throughout the Kingdom of Thailand annually.

Specifically, MWSS-171 is responsible for maintaining a wide spectrum of tasks and assets in order to keep airfield operations running efficiently.

The squadron has a multifaceted mission, providing Marines and sailors with everything from communications, water and medical services.

"Folks don't realize what it takes to support those million-dollar jets, but it takes a lot,"

SEE COBRA ON PAGE 3

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cheaper:
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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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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Same team, same jersey'

CHAPLAIN GREGG PETERS
MWSS-171 CHAPLAIN

Each month on the date of our wedding my wife and I wish each other a happy anniversary. This month will be our 288th marvelous month of marriage. During the first few years of our marriage I began learning some lessons that have helped me have a wonderful relationship these last 19 years. One of the first lessons I learned is that my wife and I wear the same jersey; we're on the same team.

This has been very helpful to us especially during those times when problems come up around us. It's very easy for us to see a problem, like not having enough money to pay a bill and start to argue amongst ourselves about how we got into

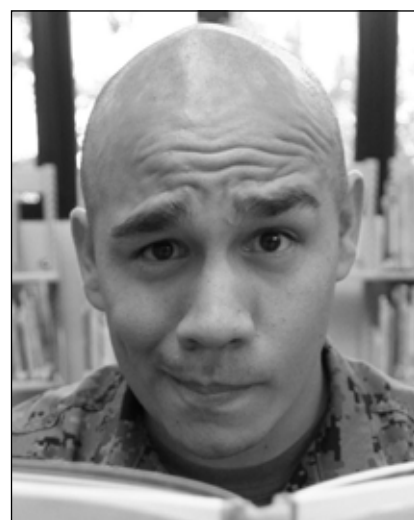
the problem in the first place. "If you hadn't done this, we wouldn't be in this situation."

It's at this point I need to remember, "We're on the same team; we wear the same jersey." The problems we face should only come from the outside not from the inside, where we fight each other too.

This simple analogy of "same team, same jersey," has helped me tremendously. What comes to your mind when you see two teams playing and one team's members start to argue amongst themselves? That's the team that's probably going to lose. The same thing is true in relationships. Once we start fighting against each other, we're going to lose and the real problems that we face won't be solved. Remember, you're on the same team; you're wearing the same jersey.

A devil for every occasion

'Devil Dog' doesn't need to be demeaning, but sometimes it has to be



CPL. MARK FAYLOGA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Since my induction into the Marine Corps, there have been no three words I have delighted in or detested more than "Hey, Devil Dog!"

There is no quicker way to let a Marine know he is messing up. As a younger Marine, I often tested the limits of our doctrine: no hands in pockets, no talking on the cell phone while walking, no running those last 10 feet into a building while colors begins to play. The little intricacies of Marine Corps standards we're told to mind - in my earlier years, I gaffed them

all off.

My reasoning was, "Those rules are stupid and there is nobody around, so if you obey them you're stupid. Now, it's cold. Stick your hands in your pockets and walk to work. Nobody will notice."

Somebody always noticed, and I would fall victim to a "Devil Dogging." Sometimes it was just as quick as that, somebody yelling, "Hey, Devil Dog! Correct yourself." Other times, I found myself standing at parade rest being verbally berated by a staff noncommissioned officer who appeared, like a ninja, out of nowhere. No matter what, when I thought I was alone and could get away with being a dirt bag, I would end up on the receiving end of a Devil Dogging.

As time went on, I stopped trying to get away with things. I began preemptively "Devilling" myself. If it was cold out and I thought about putting my hands in my pockets, the tiny John Basilone who lives in my head would say, "Hey, Devil Dog! Don't do it. You should have worn gloves."

I stopped trying to get away with things, not out of fear but out of pride. All the Devillings had sunk in. No normal person goes out of their way to yell at someone. It's time consuming and awkward for all involved. Yet every time I tried to get away with something, a different Marine would end up "Devil Dogging" me. If those other Marines had enough pride in the Corps to correct others, the least I could do is have enough pride to correct myself.

When I hear, "Hey, Devil Dog!" nowadays, I no longer tense up and correct myself. Instead, I smile as I look around

to see who's on the receiving end. There are few things that brighten up one's day like witnessing a good Devil Dogging.

This commentary is a response to the April 28 Marine Corps Times article "Don't Call Me Devil Dog!" but it's also a simple reflection on the moniker.

In case you didn't read it, let me summarize the article: A bunch of whiny Marines cry about being Devilled when they mess up, and a blogger is quoted as using the phrase "negative Pavlovian response" in regard to reactions to being Devilled.

As if putting the use of Devil Dog on blast isn't bad enough, a sidebar to the article dares to bring into question the origin of our proudest and most difficult to spell moniker of Teufelhunden. Next they'll be trying to say that my grandfather (a horse Marine who only ever wears Marine Corps green) did not in fact, eat steaks 12 inches thick and pick his teeth with a guidon stick.

The article's main explanation of disdain for the term is that Marines only hear the phrase when they're doing something wrong, so they automatically have a negative association. I have a quick fix suggestion - stop doing things wrong.

They quote an unnamed lance corporal (who probably withheld his name for fear of being "Devilled" about his comments) as saying, "We prefer to be called by our ranks."

Obviously you would prefer to be called by your rank, Devil Dog. However, when correcting a fellow Marine, you may not always know their name or rank.

SEE DEVIL ON PAGE 4



"Morning Air Strike" — A live 3-hour radio show, featuring popular music (Hot AC), local guests, news, sports and recreation information. Mondays — Thursdays from 6 - 9 a.m. and Fridays from 6 - 8 a.m., except holidays on Power 1575.

CORPS SAFETY

Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign 2008

THIS WEEK'S SAFETY TOPIC: FOOD

SUBMITTED BY THE STATION SAFETY OFFICE

Food becomes unsafe through contamination during preparation and storing procedures that support bacterial growth. Contamination is usually the unintended presence of micro-organisms or harmful substances in food. However, some contaminants such as fish toxins may naturally occur in food; for example, tetrodotoxin produced in puffer fish. When people get sick from such contaminants in food, it is called food borne illness. The symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pains, and headache.

Three types of food hazards are biological, chemical, and physical in nature. Biological hazards include disease-causing micro-organisms (e.g., bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi), and some fish that carry harmful toxins. Chemical hazards include food additives and preservatives, toxic metals such as lead, copper, and zinc that leach through worn cookware and equipment, cleaning and sanitizing supplies, and pesticides from unwashed fruits and vegetables. Physical hazards include any object that may accidentally enter food. Metal fragments from cans, broken glass from containers.

By far the most common type of food borne illness results from disease causing micro-organisms. Some examples are listed below.

CAMPYLOBACTER ENTERITIS

Campylobacter enteritis is a bacterial disease characterized by diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, nausea, or vomiting. These

symptoms can appear between 1-10 days depending on dose ingested. Often found in chickens, it is commonly contracted by eating undercooked poultry, contaminated food and water, or drinking raw milk.

E. COLI O157:H7

E. coli is one of the most common bacteria found in the intestinal tract. Some forms of the bacteria are harmless, but one harmful strain is sometimes found in the intestinal tracts of cattle. After consuming as few as 10 microbes of the bacteria, people can fall seriously ill. Cooking meat completely at high temperatures will kill the bacteria, but E. coli O157:H7 can also be acquired through unpasteurized dairy milk.

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

Staphylococcus aureus, the most common cause of staph infections, is a spherical bacterium, frequently living on the skin, hair, nose, throat, and infected sores of a healthy person. Avoid working with food if you have skin infections, lesions or sores present. You may transfer these bacteria onto prepared food and then the consumer.

SALMONELLA

Humans can acquire salmonella poisoning after they consume foods that have been contaminated by animal feces that contain salmonella bacteria or by consuming infected animals. Most people infected with salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps within a few days of ingesting the bacteria.

COBRA FROM PAGE 1

said Maj. Andre Williams, the MWSS-171 operations officer. "It's a lot of movement getting forces here prepared."

Williams said for the MWSS-171 Marines, the deployment is comparable to planning and commencing a massive camping trip.

"You need the fuel, you need chow, you need coordination with the camp

director, and that's kind of what we do here," he said.

We come in, establish a relationship with the Thais and we ensure that those birds can fly."

According to Staff Sgt. Carnell Barksdale, assistant camp commandant, the Marines and sailors are working hard and staying motivated.

"It started out a little hectic, getting

equipment, getting equipment to move equipment ... just the logistics of it."

However, the Marines love it, Barksdale added.

"They're having a blast and they are doing great."

MWSS-171 is currently supporting various locations throughout Thailand, including Utaphao, Korat and Koke Kathiem.

BHC FROM PAGE 1

commanding officer of USNH Yokosuka, said in an e-mail.

For the most part, the BHC monitors itself through a system of peer-reviews. However, Yokosuka will occasionally send a group down to inspect, said Navy Lt. John Bradley, department head of optometry at Iwakuni.

"We have a meager staff of 80 personnel and still handle 27,000 patient visits, 600 med-evacs and 1,200 host-nation referrals a year," said Cmdr. William M. Wike, BHC Iwakuni commanding officer.

More extraordinary is that the BHC maintains a manning level at or below 80 percent because of its support of the "Long War", Wike said.

Although the Joint Commission and Medical Inspector General examined virtually every aspect of the BHC and Yokosuka, they mentioned certain aspects as being particularly impressive.

"One group stood out even taller than all the rest, and that was our hospital corpsmen," Krentz said. "You all were amazing! You are a shining example of the high standards, spirit, and commitment to excellence that is the hallmark of the Hospital Corps."

The corpsmen made a strong impression on the inspectors and they certainly do not go unnoticed day-to-day.

"Every doctor relies heavily on their corpsmen," Bradley said. "Without the corpsmen, this place would probably fall apart."

Even though the corpsmen are potentially more recognizable to Marines, they are not the only ones that keep the BHC running smoothly.

It's important to remember that the medical staff and personnel are a part of the sword as well, Wike added.

"People don't understand; they just see a building," Wike said. "They don't know what happens inside."

Host-nation referrals alone provide a language complexity that many facilities stateside don't have to handle, Wike said.

Besides the day-to-day operations, the BHC command must ensure that they have personnel available to ride on ships, Wike said.

"I think it's remarkable that, given the numbers, we still accomplish the mission and still get the stamp of approval," Wike said.

News Briefs

OHA Survey deadline extended

The deadline for the annual Overseas Housing Allowance Utility/Recurring Maintenance Survey for Japan has been extended to May 30. Service members here currently in private leases under the OHA program are encouraged to participate. The survey is available online at <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oha/survey/proha.html>

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.

Filipino - American Association

The Fil-Am Association is presenting its 13th annual Pista Sa Nasyon "Town Fiesta" May 24 at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. The event will include traditional Filipino song-and-dance routines, dinner and dancing following along with raffle prizes. Tickets are \$30. For more information, contact the Fil-Am Association president, HM1 Cadavos at 253-4825.

From Quonset huts to hangars, combat engineers, Ultimate Building Machine have it covered

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Often working in less than ideal conditions with sometimes rudimentary resources, combat engineers are revered for their ability to build something out of nothing. Whether it's putting up an entire camp's worth of tents, hygiene facilities and concertina wire in freezing Yecheon, Korea, or fixing tank roads and leveling a vertical take-off and landing pad under the summer sun in Camp Fuji, the leathernecks from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 have proven time and time again they're up for the job.

The engineers recently added another tool to their arsenal following 12 days of training at Penny Lake with the squadron's newest toy: the Ultimate Building Machine.

Though the name may conjure images of a Transformers-like robot beast, the UBM is actually a mobile piece of manufacturing equipment revolutionizing the way buildings are constructed.

"The UBM 240 is capable of erecting steel structures a minimum of 30 feet wide up to a maximum of 100 feet wide," said Richard H. Lindvig, MIC Industries senior technical support specialist, who came to Iwakuni to train the Marines. "They can be used for living quarters, for warehouse facilities, for hangar facilities — there (are) numerous uses."

The machine takes a large coil of steel, forms it to a straight corrugated panel and curves the panel to form various building shapes.

From there, engineers seam the panels together and raise the structure into a supportive foundation.



With the assistance of a Millennia Military Vehicle, combat engineers from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 raise a steel structure into its foundation at Penny Lake May 8. For 12 days the Marines trained with the Ultimate Building Machine, a mobile piece of manufacturing equipment capable of quickly producing buildings without the need of nuts, bolts or trusses. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

"The actual structure itself is built with no nuts, bolts or trusses," said Charles Lipscomb, MIC Industries technical support specialist who accompanied Lindvig.

The relatively simple process is capable of producing 10,000 square feet of building per day with minimal manpower requirements. According to Lindvig, the combat engineers from 171 were quick to catch on, and in no time had erected a Quonset hut-style structure in the field next to Penny Lake.

"A 50 by 100-foot building normally would take 20 Marines to run a continuous construction of the building," he said. "We started out with 26, and now we're down to 13."

Cpl. Pete Torres, MWSS-171 combat

engineer, said the opportunity to become familiarized with the UBM is one that will ultimately save himself, his fellow Marines and his squadron countless construction hours.

"It's a pretty awesome machine. You can make any building you want in a short amount of time," he said. "Instead of taking forever to make one building, it only takes a couple days."

Lipscomb agreed, adding that cost-effectiveness was another key advantage of the UBM.

"We're believers of the product. We've seen what it can do," Lipscomb said. "A good example is our UBM 120 machine can ... duplicate a (general purpose) medium tent for \$1,200, where the G.P.

medium tent now runs \$5,800. There's a substantial savings in cost, and it will outlast any other G.P. medium."

Aside from promoting cost and time-effectiveness, being able to travel to different installations and interact with engineers like the 171 leathernecks is what makes the two retired service members glad to come to work.

"We travel the whole world training all our customers, either U.S. military customers or foreign government customers," Lindvig said.

Working with the military is what makes the job great, Lipscomb added. "This is a very familiar environment getting to come back and work with the (Marines)."

'Death from the Darkness' trains in land of midnight sun

SGT. ROCKY SMITH
NORTHERN EDGE 2008 JIB

EILSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — The Bats of Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 packed up their planes, flew thousands of miles and arrived to find 19 hours of daylight each day at Northern Edge 2008 near Fairbanks, Alaska.

Northern Edge is a joint-service training exercise scheduled May 5-16 that provides the opportunity to hone current and test future applications of combat operations and weapon capabilities.

For VMFA(AW)-242 Marines, it is good training in a deployed environment.

"We are flying every day — air-to-air missions, air-to-ground missions, responding to (close air support)," said Capt. Jeffrey J. Horton, a pilot with VMFA(AW)-242. "What we do here is practice the Marine aviation doctrine of supporting Marines on the ground."

Supporting Marines on the ground can sometimes be a difficult and tricky job. Most battlefield environments are full of enemy aircraft, unfriendly skies, surface-to-air missiles and other enemy defenses used to keep that air support away from the battle.

The Bats, who fly the F/A-18D variant, have some advantages in these situations.

The F/A-18D is a two-seat aircraft with room for a weapons system officer in the back. The WSO, or "whizzo," is responsible for radars and weapons systems, leaving the pilot to concentrate on flying the aircraft. Having another set

of eyes and ears in the air is a huge asset during complicated missions riddled with various threats from both air and ground. However, Horton points out, the pilot still has the "pickle button," to release or employ the various weapons systems on board.

Teamwork and coordination doesn't end in the cockpit. Northern Edge is about joint forces working together.

"We're working with the Air Force, using their assets, using our specialties, and combining to be a great tactical force," said Horton, a native of Union City, Mich. "That's how it would work. Everyone would work together and combine arms to successfully complete the mission, (to) save those Marines on the ground."

Not only do the Marine and Air Force pilots support Marines on the ground, they also rely on them. Cpl. Kyle Marko, a 22-year-old communications and navigations systems technician, works tirelessly to keep fliers like Horton in the air.

"If any jet (breaks down), we will stay here 24 hours a day. It's mission essential to get these jets up," Marko said. "The whole unit has to work together. If our stuff doesn't work, then another shop's stuff isn't going to work."

Marko cites unit cohesion as the most important component to making joint training situations work.

"As little as we have out here, we'll make it work no matter what," he said. "We come together as a team; day crew, night crew, Marines, Air Force, it doesn't matter. We will make mission."



An F/A-18D from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 deploys a flare in defense against a simulated surface-to-air missile known as a "Smoky Sam," during Northern Edge 2008 on the Pacific Alaska Range Complex. NE 08 is a two week tactical exercise that showcases the interoperability of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and provides the opportunity to hone current and test future applications of combat operations and weapon capabilities in a joint environment. Photo by Sgt. Rocky Smith

DEVIL FROM PAGE 2

Devil Dog should be preferable to "Hey, idiot!" in this scenario. Even if Devil Dog were outlawed, the Marine in need of correction still needs to be addressed. The logical next step is to say, "Hey, Marine." So in about five years, we can expect Marine Corps Times to publish an article about Marines crying for being called Marines. "I equate the term Marine with my negative behavior," said some random private first class.

Of course you're going to have junior Marines saying Devil Dog is a derogatory term when you only ask crybaby Marines what they think. I confirmed Devil Dog is a term of endearment with one of my own lance corporals. I called him into my office the way I always do.

I bellowed, "Get in here, Devil Dog." He rushed into my office and once I told him to stand at ease, I asked him — "These idiots are trying to say Devil Dog is a derogatory term. What a bunch of idiots, right Devil Hunden?"

Nervously, he began to answer but I added — "Now remember Teufel, your leave request is still pending. Don't you think they're morons Devil Face?"

His lips quivering, he whispered — "Yes corporal. They're idiots. I love being called 'Devil Dog' and 'Devil Face.'"

Proud of my young D-Dog, I sent him away.

"Good to go, Devil Egg. Now get out of my face and go finish scrubbing that bulkhead, Teufel."

I know he was immensely proud of my endearing use of the word "Devil Dog" because as he walked away, I could see him crying (I can only assume they were tears of joy).

All right, maybe that story is exaggerated a bit. But, I do know he feels pride when called Devil Dog positively, and although I rarely use it in reprimand, he's mature enough to man-up and admit when he's made a mistake, not snivel about being Devilled.

Instead of complaining when it's used in a disciplinary fashion, we should embrace the fact that we have a phrase — three simple words in a loud enough tone — so powerful in making sure Marines act like Marines. No other service can boast that.

My wife is a proud member of the Air Force. A few months back, we were at her base exchange, and an airman was walking around the store in a physical training uniform.

My wife looked at him, then leaned over and told me, "He's not supposed to wear that in here."

"Go Devil Dog him," I responded. "She gave me a confused look. I tried rephrasing my advice.

"Devil him, baby. Devil him right out of here."

The look of confusion remained, and the airman left the store by the time I finished explaining what Devil Dogging was and that no Marine would dream of wearing PT gear in an exchange because he would be Devilled three steps into the store.

Regardless of its power, more often than not when I say Devil Dog (or any of its variations), it is used as a term of endearment.

When getting the office together, "Gather round, Teufels." When ending the work day, "Alright Devils, let's get out of here." When defending my patriotism after my wife calls me a communist for not watching NASCAR, "You're out of your mind. I'm a proud Teufelhunden!"

The point is the term is what you make it and how you use it. We have a proud and storied history, and if you don't like the term Devil Dog, you shouldn't gripe about its usage, but embrace its history and reclaim its proud traditions.

Even if the term doesn't bounce back from its disciplinary overtones, that's not necessarily a bad thing. So maybe the term has lost its earlier ferocity. It no longer brings to mind the image of tenacious Marines steadily handing it to Germans, but rather of steadfast leaders handing it to immature Marines. If the end result is younger Marines eventually growing up and Devilling themselves, how is that a bad thing?



M.C. Perry shadows dress for success

As he struggles to compensate for the weight of his bomb suit, James T. Mocarski admits this is no ordinary day in his sixth-grade English class. Mocarski along with more than 100 students from the Matthew C. Perry schools aboard the air station attended Job Shadowing Day with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 May 2. During their four-hour tour of the squadron's different sections, the students learned different elements of the squadron and the support they provide to Marines and sailors here. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

ASA ZOO

Have an elephant-sized day on a devil dog-budget

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

When deciding on travel plans for the warm-weather season, consider a day-trip to Asahigaoka just outside of Hiroshima to catch a glimpse of exotic creatures at the Asa Zoo. Pack a camera. The zoo is home to more than 1,700 animals from the world over.

Established in 1971, the Asa Zoo covers approximately 64 acres where enthusiasts can foot nearly two-and-a-half miles of trail with or without a guide. The place opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 4:30 p.m., so arriving before noon is a sure way to make your 500 yen visit (or 170 yen for

those under the age of 18) well worth its price.

Those with an extra-ferocious appetite can make their way to the zoo's restaurant and café where noodles, curry and other dishes are readily available. When planning a party or get-together, the staff can help settle the monkey business by reserving one of several parks and pavilions around the zoo.

The journey is simple even for a chimpanzee. Get there first by taking the familiar train ride from Iwakuni JR train station to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, exit to the north away from Shin-Hiroshima station. In front is a bus stop. Look for platform nine and standby for the next Asahigaoka-bound bus. For more information about Asa Zoo and other spots, visit the Information Tours & Travel office.



An **Anubis Baboon**, mainly found in as many as 25 African countries, enjoys a little break from the afternoon sun at her home aptly named, "Baboon Mountain," in the Asa Zoo. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



(Left) A **common snake-neck turtle**, whose fresh-water-habitat is commonly found in the lakes of eastern Australia, swims up close to inspect his visitors at the Asa Zoo Vivarium. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez (Below) Tired from a day of lounging around, **lions** enjoy some shade during a sunny afternoon at Asa Zoo. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs.



Taka, Asa Zoo's 17-year-old **African Bush Elephant**, playfully swings his trunk in the afternoon sun. Taka's breed is of the largest land mammals on the planet, himself weighing in at nearly five tons! Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



(Above) A **Hyacinth Macaw**, one of the loudest and longest birds in the macaw family, stands proudly from his stump at the Asa Zoo. The bird refused to give his name but a sign above him revealed he was nine years old. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

(Below) A majestic **mandrill** seems to ponder its day while onlookers snap portraits of the tropical rainforest-based ape at the Asa Zoo. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



(Right) Although looks can be deceiving, this attractive **Royal Bengal tiger** was shot behind the safety of a chain-linked fence. Still, rules posted at the Asa Zoo state no pets allowed and children should remain under close supervision at all times. (Below) Many **black rhinoceros**, a species of rhino native to eastern Africa, can be found at the Rhino Terrace area inside the Asa Zoo. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



PLAN AHEAD

IWAKUNI TO HIROSHIMA: ¥740

BUS TO ASAHIGAOKA: ¥480

ADMISSION COST: ¥500

ROUNDTrip:

¥2,940

Consider packing this:

- Sunblock
- Some extra spending yen for food along the way
- Bottled water for the trail
- Assorted nuts or any other type of small snack
- Insect repellent

AROUND THE CORPS

From the Lioness Den

LANCE CPL. CINDY G. ALEJANDREZ
1st MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

RUTBAH, Iraq — "Iraq is full of pop tarts." In every mess hall, packed in every care package, sitting in a box at the back of our classroom and now written on the wall of a bathroom stall in Al Asad.

I went to Al Asad for Lioness training with Regimental Combat Team 5. I'm a combat correspondent without any combat experience. Although I'm now a journalist for the Marine Corps, I have always been a journal-keeper of some sort.

A combat photographer, a field wireman and a cook with 1st Marine Logistics Group also volunteered for the program. This was our opportunity to serve a more direct role in this war. As females, being a Lioness gave us a rare opportunity to work "outside the wire," away from our desk jobs and away from working with tape recorders, cameras, wires and spatulas.

Our job was to search Iraqi females for suicide vests, fake identification and contraband at vehicle and entry control points in an effort to diminish the threat of female suicide bombers, while keeping in mind the gender sensitivities of the nationals.

The training course to prepare us for our duties included things we were already familiar with, such as rules of engagement, escalation of force, a combat lifesaver course and techniques from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program we may need for self-defense. We fired our rifles and AK-47s at the range, learned about sniper threats and the history of suicide bombers. We even had the opportunity to touch



A girl at a traffic control point in Rutbah, Iraq, shows off her henna tattoos while her mother waits to be searched by a female Marine March 20, 2008.



Cpl. Nicole K. Estrada, a 21-year-old from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., instructs a woman to search herself at the female search area in Rutbah, Iraq. Estrada, a Lioness supporting India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment looks for weapons, large amounts of money or suicide vests March 14, 2008. Photos by Lance Cpl. Cindy G. Alejandre

suicide vests retrieved after a failed terrorist attack.

Touching the vest brought the reality of the news straight to my hands. One was gray and made with fabric from a soldier's gear. It made me think of the belts worn by some newborn babies to protect the skin still attached to their belly buttons. That started a train of thought leading me to think of all the mothers who may have lost someone in this war. They could use their anger as an excuse to make something similar to what I was holding.

At the time, news of female suicide bombers was everywhere. In February two women executed a deadly attack in a Baghdad pet market, killing 99 people. The attack was one of several in the past year, making it seem to me like humans, not vehicles, were becoming the preferred method of transporting explosives. It made me wonder if terrorists had exhausted one tactic and moved on to another.

The news was probably what kept me awake through all the hours of wearying Power Point presentations.

The Arabic-language class was probably the most helpful training we received. Every day for at least an hour, Arabic greetings and commands were pounded into our brains. I would practice at night before going to sleep. Our lead training instructor emphasized the importance by making us state phrases repeatedly throughout the day.

"Oni imra'ah, elbis shari fowq," we said. It means "I am a woman wearing my hair pulled back."

It got to the point where I would forget the meaning of the sentence I was spitting out.

We learned of our destinations a day before our departure. We would be heading out to Rutbah. On the map, it seemed so far away from everything. It is a city in the far-western al-Anbar Province and is a crossroads linking Baghdad to the Syrian border.

I packed light, bracing myself for the travel. Traveling with all my protective gear on and

combat load is serious business in the heat but I couldn't complain yet because I still had a busy month or two ahead of me. I would wear my 30-pound flak jacket several weeks and for several hours throughout the day.

We arrived in Rutbah after a short helicopter ride and a few hours later convoyed to the traffic control point where we'd be working.

My stomach turned when I saw a multitude of children run to the convoy to wave hello. It was just strange to me to see the large group of kids running around, like the entire city was their playground.

Apart from the children walking around, there were also sheep in the street, dozens of dirty dogs and trash everywhere. The trail of trash continued on to the traffic control point. The way it was caught on the barbed wires and lying against the protective barriers, it was like gaudy wallpaper for the perimeter.

The Lionesses we were relieving seemed excited to meet us, as they were ready to hand over responsibility of their post. They also gave us a tour of the area, showing us the mess hall, showers, an area recently damaged by mortars and, finally, the female search area.

The post was nothing like what I thought it may look like, although I barely had an idea of what to expect. Anyways, I don't think anything would have made me feel completely safe given our situation and unfamiliar surroundings.

"All it would take is one," a staff sergeant later put it. The sergeant on post spun us up on the way they did business there, the mood of the people they deal with and in return let us bombard her with questions.

Sometime between then and the morning, before falling asleep on our cots in a room made of sand-barrier walls, we decided our special word in case of an emergency at the post. If we ever felt threatened, our secret word to alert our partner would be "pop tart."

It's what we had become tired of eating and what we didn't want the women to do — pop.

Community Briefs

2008 Summer Reading Program

Join "Catch the Reading Bug!" this summer at the MCAS Station Library and discover the amazing world of insects. The 2008 Summer Reading Program is open to young people preschool through age 12 with programs, prize drawings, story hours and more. Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins June 30.

For more information, call the library at 253-3078. All programs are free of charge.

Iwakuni Civic Theatre's 'The King and I'

The Iwakuni Civic Theatre is proud to present "The King and I" at Sakura Theater on May 17 at 4 p.m. and May 18 at 1 p.m. Free Admission.

AA sponsorship needs volunteers

Senior friends of Bill W. needed for sponsorship assistance. Place: Alcoholics Anonymous meeting room on second floor of Yujo Hall, next to the base chapel. Time: Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-4526.

Thrift Store volunteers needed

The Marine Thrift Store is accepting applications to fill four volunteer positions: manager, assistant manager, secretary and treasurer. Please call 253-3428 or 090-7506-6743 (cell) if you are interested.

M.C. Perry High School 'Project Graduation' volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help the graduating seniors of M.C. Perry High School on June 11, 8 p.m. to sunrise. We need casino game operators, setup crew on June 11 and tear down crew on June 12. If interested, please call 253-2192 or e-mail paulasmedes@yahoo.com.

Registration for Term 5 - Central Texas College

Early registration for Term 5 is accepted May 19 - May 30. The actual classes are June 2 - July 27. Distance learning and traditional classes are available. For more information, contact the Central Texas College at 253-3631 or e-mail iwakuni.jpn.pfec@ctcd.edu.

Rose Festa 2008 in Hachigamine

The Waki Town Chamber of Commerce will hold Rose Festa 2008 at Hachigamine Park in Waki Town May 25, 9 a.m. — 3 p.m. The festival will feature a Japanese Taiko drum concert

at the children's square at 10 a.m. Twelve drum groups will participate in the concert for a total of 100 drummers. There will also be a special guest, Mr. Yu Imahuku, a Japanese professional Taiko drum performer. Other attractions include: rock music, Japanese archery game, flea market and portrait corner. For more information contact the Waki Town Chamber of Commerce at 0827-53-2066.

The 13th Annual Pista Sa Nasyon 'Town Fiesta'

The 13th Annual Pista Sa Nasyon "Town Fiesta" will be held at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom at 5 p.m. May 24. There will be Filipino cultural performances, dinner and dance, and raffle prizes. Social hour will begin at 5 p.m., dinner buffet and show will start at 6 p.m. and there will be a dance afterward. Tickets are \$30.

For more information, call 253-4825 or 253-6084.

L.I.N.K.S.

Do you want to know about: communicating, Tri-Care, DEERS, investing in your community, PCSing, allowances and entitlements, LES statements, basic housing allowances, children and deployment, rank structure, Marine jargon, types of uniforms, MOS roadmaps,

rank progression, optional billets and tuition benefits? Then join us for L.I.N.K.S.! Free childcare and lunch provided. For class schedules or more information, call Marine Corps Family Team Building at 253-3754.

Chapel: Club Beyond

Club Beyond is a globally recognized, command endorsed and funded, faith-based youth program that desires to reach out to every military student in grades 7 - 12. Club Beyond will have monthly events along with retreats and service projects. The youth meetings consist of games, skits, music and a faith-based talk.

For more information, call 253-5183, e-mail iwakuniCB@gmail.com or visit http://iwakuniteens.blogspot.com.

Air conditioning season

The air conditioning season start date is when temperature hits 78 degrees Fahrenheit or 26 degrees Celsius for three consecutive days according to MCAS order 11300.6A. Facilities Department, Energy Conservation is recording temperatures by hours daily and there is no need to call asking when the A/C will be turned on. For more information, call 253-4556.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tuesday - Friday 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowships
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service (small chapel)

Church of the United Christians Inc.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

Jewish

Friday 6:00 p.m. Shabbat (small chapel)

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.

API recognizes station fuels for superior performance



Station Commanding Officer Col. Michael O'Halloran (center) and Senior Enlisted Advisor Sgt. Maj. Jerry Bailey (far right) stand with members of station fuels after the organization was presented a trophy from the American Petroleum Institute for "superior performance and excellence to the outstanding fuel activity within the United States Marine Corps." Given the hustle and bustle of the air station and everyone's different fuel needs, Iwakuni's seamless operations are testament to the hard work here, O'Halloran told the fuels Marines, sailors and Master Labor Contract employees. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Classifieds

Automobiles

1996 Nissan Grand Prairie

4-door automatic. JCI until November 2009. Excellent mid-size family vehicle. Seats 7-8. Equipped with moonroof, sunroof, GPS navigation system, radio, cassette, CD player. \$2,300 or best offer. For more information, call 253-2326 (home).

1995 Nissan Prairie

Ready for purchase as of May 19. \$1,500 or best offer. JCI good until August 2008. Vehicle is in good condition (has heat/AC and is under 50,000 km). Seats 7 passengers. Anyone interested, please call 080-3521-0808 or 080-3252-1840 (cell).

1992 Nissan Skyline GTS

Two-door, asking for \$1,995. JCI until January 2009. Only 63,000 km! One of the most sought-after cars in Iwakuni. This car has a sunroof, power everything, new tires, new battery and an Alpine CD player. Snow chains will also be included. You will not be able to find it for this price at any dealership. For more information, call 253-6220 (work) or 090-1773-6552 (cell).

Mess Hall Menu

MONDAY May 19, 2008

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

TUESDAY May 20, 2008

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

WEDNESDAY May 21, 2008

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

THURSDAY May 22, 2008

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

FRIDAY May 23, 2008

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

1994 Honda Odyssey

JCI until December 2009. Runs great. Asking for \$2,700 or best offer. For more information, call 253-3588 (work) or 080-3402-3436 (cell).

1993 Honda Accord

JCI until Sept. 27, 2009. New tires, great A/C and heat, 2008 Road Tax paid. Runs great. \$2,500 or best offer. For more information, call 253-3205 (work) or 253-2535 (home).

1995 Toyota Town Ace

Dependable vehicle, JCI good until March 2010. Great A/C and heat, non-smoker, power windows and locks, CD/tape deck, runs and drives great, rear seats fold away for cargo space. Asking \$2,000 or best reasonable offer. Please contact 080-3469-4795 (cell), 253-2665 (home) or 253-4274 (work).

1994 Honda Civic

JCI until August 2009. Road Taxes paid. Low Mileage: 55K km. 4-door, power windows, air conditioned, automatic. Runs great. Paint faded and the stereo is unreliable, but looks good inside. \$750 or best offer. PCSing in June. For more information, call 21-5576 (home) or e-mail jacob.brookover@gmail.com.

1994 Toyota Estima Van

JCI good until September 2009. Automatic, PW/PD/PS, A/C runs cold, moonroof and sunroof, CD player and radio, seats 7, clean, great vehicle for the family. Road Tax just paid. PCSing, must sell. \$2,800 or best offer. Call at 253-6904 and 4673 (work) or 253-2063 (home).

1989 Mitsubishi Pajero

JCI until Nov. 24, 2009 (18 months left), new tires, seats 7, seats fold up, 4-wheel drive, diesel, heat, no AC, power windows & locks, all taxes paid, automatic. Runs great. Asking \$2,500 or best offer. For more information call 253-2151 (home) or 080-3876-2327 (cell).

1992 Nissan Largo

8-passenger van. JCI until September 2008. \$1,000 or best offer. Call 253-3183 (work) or 253-2945 (home).

Job Openings

Part-time agent position at Sato Travel

This position is responsible for booking air, car and hotel reservations for military travelers in official duty status using the Sabre CRS. Desirable for candidates to have travel agency or airline experience as well as Sabre CRS experience. Send resumes to mkenat@cwtsatotravel.com. No phone inquiries accepted.

Job Announcement for WIC Overseas Iwakuni

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has opportunities available for a full-time nutritionist/dietitian/nurse in the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program in Iwakuni.

Position requires a Bachelor of Science in nutrition, nursing or home economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required. Registered dietitian preferred. Experience in WIC desirable. Must have driver's license. Must be a U.S. citizen.

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise, a rapidly growing provider of health, social, mental health, and administrative services, will reward your efforts with an attractive salary and benefits package including 401(K), medical/dental/vision, and opportunities for career relocation and growth.

For immediate consideration, please e-mail your resume, cover letter and copy of your driver's license to Denise.Williams@med.navy.mil or fax to 243-2614.

Miscellaneous

Bicycles with baskets

Four bicycles with baskets and carrying racks in perfect working shape. These bicycles are wonderful for moving around town and on base. Lots of carrying capacity. \$49 each or \$175 for all four. For more information, call 253-3558 (work) or 253-2979 (home).

Loft bed with lamp and swivel chair

Beautifully finished pine loft bed in perfect shape. Comes with swivel chair, desk lamp, desk, matching filing cabinet. Purchased brand new for \$1,200.

Will sacrifice for \$975. The perfect bed for children that need study space and enjoy the adventure of sleeping 5 1/2 feet above the floor. Guard rail included. For more information, call 253-3558 (work) or 253-2979 (home).

Items for sale

- Palm Tungsten T 16MB : 320x320 resolution, speaker, headphone jack, microphone, bluetooth, docking station. \$40.
- Linksys PSUS4 USB Print Server with 4-port switch : connect a printer directly to your home network. \$30.
- Netgear WGR614 54 Mbps Wireless Firewall Router with 4-port switch : network all of your computers and connect them on one internet connection. \$30.
- 512MB (256MB x 2) PC2-4200 DDR SO-DIMM Laptop Ram. \$15.
- Home-built computer, Athlon XP 2500+ 512MB DDR 80GB HDD SATA Radeon 9800 Pro DVD. Windowed case with handle, excellent condition. \$300
- Home-built gaming computer, Athlon 64 3200+ 1GB DDR 80GB HDD SATA Radeon x800 DVD/CDRW. Tricked-out case, excellent condition. \$450
- Hyundai L90D+ 19" 8ms 1280x1024 LCD monitor. Great for gaming but has one stuck pixel. \$100
- Playstation 2 with controller and a variety of games (FEF, Dark Cloud, Metal Gear 2). \$80.

Most items come with original packaging and manuals. PCSing in June. All prices negotiable. For more information, please call (home) 21-5576 or e-mail jacob.brookover@gmail.com.

Wall-to-wall carpeting

Fits Monzen housing floor plan. Green in color - great shape. Living room, stairs, upstairs hallway, master bedroom. Two kids' bedrooms - one forest green and one mauve/pink. Asking \$600. Available May 30. Call at 253-6904 and 4673 (work) or 253-2063 (home).

Beautiful couch for sale

Recently reduced to \$150 or best offer. Paid almost \$1,000 when we originally purchased it. Olive green with tapestry-like cushions. Also folds out into full-size sofa bed. It is in great shape. Please call 090-9109-8122 (cell) or e-mail hutchwife08@yahoo.com if interested.

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.

Sakura Theater

Friday, May 16, 2008

7 p.m. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13)
10 p.m. Shutter (PG-13)

Saturday, May 17, 2008

4 p.m. The King and I
(Civic Theater performance)
7 p.m. Shutter (PG-13)
10 p.m. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13)

Sunday, May 18, 2008

1 p.m. The King and I
(Civic Theater performance)
4 p.m. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13)

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. **The King and I: Free admission.**

7 p.m. Shutter (PG-13)

Monday, May 19, 2008

7 p.m. Penelope (PG)

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

7 p.m. Doomsday (R)

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

7 p.m. Never Back Down (PG-13)

Thursday, May 22, 2008

7 p.m. The Bank Job (R)

Longballs swipe victory from Hooligans in softball season opener

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Longballs edged out the Hooligans 12-10 in the intramural softball season opener here May 12.

The Hooligans, representing Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Ordinance, started strong with three runs in the first-inning and no response from the Longballs, representing Aircraft Rescue Firefighting and Expeditionary Airfield.

After the top of the second, the Hooligans appeared to be in a commanding position using a series of base hits to take a 10-0 lead.

Unfortunately for the Hooligans, they would be unable to score for the remainder of the game.

In the bottom of the second the Longballs rallied to bring in six runs with their own series of base hits.

Both teams went scoreless in the third inning with little action on either side.

In the bottom of the fourth, Longballs' shortstop Aaron "Rough Knuckles" Warner belted a home run to lead off the inning.

Another home run came later to bring the Longballs within two, making the score 10-8.

With the game on the line in the bottom of the fifth, the Longballs looked to be down for the count until Longballs' right fielder Nicholas J. Taufmann ripped a single to start a rally.

Robert F. Lark, the Longballs' catcher, and Warner followed with singles of their own, loading the bases.

That brought up the team captain, Luis Esparza. Esparza launched a ball into the gap between the left and center fielders. The hit turned into a grand slam snatching what seemed to be certain victory from the Hooligans.

"I guess a bunch of little mistakes," was all Joshua Feenstra, captain of the Hooligans, had to say about the cause of the loss.



The intramural softball season opener between the Hooligans and the Longballs starts on a temperate May 12. The Longballs would go on to defeat the Hooligans 12-10. Photos by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



The umpire, Chris Clark, watches closely as a pitch is thrown to a Longball's player during the Longballs versus Hooligans intramural softball season opener here May 12. The Longballs trailed behind in the beginning of the game 10-0, however they slowly rose to lead and ultimately win the game 12-10.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH SPORTS
For sports coverage, call 253-5551



Marine Aircraft Group 12's intramural basketball team poses for a picture following its 46-39 win against the Untouchables in the spring season championship game at IronWorks Gym Tuesday night. The 11-3 team went undefeated in the playoffs en route to the title. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

MAG-12 champion, knocks off Untouchables 46-39 for season crown

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Shooting guard Chris Schmidt poured in a game-high 17 points Tuesday night, including three three-pointers, to lead Marine Aircraft Group 12 past the Untouchables 46-39 in the intramural basketball spring season championship game at IronWorks Gym.

Forward and team coach Lamont McIntosh added 11 points and several rebounds as MAG improved to 11-3 overall, including a 4-0 record in the playoffs. The Untouchables fell to 10-4.

While MAG got off to quick starts in the beginning of both halves, they never held a double-digit lead. The Untouchables fought their way back from a 13-5 deficit in the first to even the score at 20 at the break. Meanwhile, MAG was out in front 33-24 midway through the second before the Untouchables rallied back to take their first and only lead of the game, 39-38 with 2:45 to go. The Untouchables went scoreless for the remainder of the game, however, as MAG pulled away with one of Schmidt's threes and a few late free throws.

"Schmidt was our MVP," said the 6-foot-3, 225-pound McIntosh, who provided an essential presence in the paint for MAG. "We couldn't have done it with out him."

McIntosh said Schmidt's lethality from long range opened up the lane for other MAG players to drive to the goal for scores or free-throw attempts. Meanwhile, Schmidt said the win was a team effort.

"We really just started gelling toward the end (of the season)," Schmidt said. "There weren't any individuals

Scoring summary

| | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| MAG-12 | 20 | 26 | 46 |
| Untouchables | 20 | 19 | 39 |

MAG-12: C. Schmidt 17,

L. McIntosh 11, J. Montez 10

Untouchables: R. White 14,

R. Kennedy 8

Three-point shots

MAG-12: C. Schmidt 3, J. Winston 1

Untouchables: R. White 3

out there. Everyone played their hearts out."

Schmidt said that the slightly older MAG team struggled endurance-wise during the season against several of the league's younger teams, including the Untouchables.

While they could only do their best to keep up with the Untouchables' speed, MAG was able to out-rebound them with their size and good positioning.

The loss was a tough one for the Untouchables, but the team was happy with the way they played, according to guard Richard White, who scored a team-high 14 points, including three three-pointers to match Schmidt.

"Both teams played a good, hard, intense game," White said. "I think the calls were one-sided. This is the second time we had to play against both the players and the officials, but we tried not to let them decide the outcome of the game."

Missed scoring opportunities were probably the difference in the game, White added.



Marine Aircraft Group 12 forward Lamont McIntosh is guarded by Untouchables forward Robert Kennedy during the intramural basketball spring season championship at IronWorks Gym Tuesday night. McIntosh scored 11 points and pulled in several boards in MAG's 46-39 win.

"We missed some free throws and a couple of easy layups here and there. Other than that it was a good game. We had a great season. We didn't get what we wanted – the championship – but we're here."

MAG earned its way into the championship game with a 50-48 win against the then 11-0 Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron "Stacked," the only undefeated team during regular season play, and a 44-31 win against the Untouchables.

The Untouchables eliminated Stacked 52-50 Monday night to earn their way into a rematch against MAG for the title.