

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 31, Vol. 1

Friday, August 22, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



**Former UFC fighter Andrei "The Pit Bull" Arlovski poses with a fan during a meet-and-greet in the Marine Corps Exchange Sound Shop Aug. 9. Arlovski spent time at various locations aboard the station during his tour of Japan.**

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard*

**Former UFC fighter greets, grapples with station locals**

**LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD**  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Ultimate Fighting Champion fighter and former heavyweight champion Andrei "The Pit Bull" Arlovski paid a visit to the Marines and sailors aboard the station Aug. 9.

United Service Organizations funded the trip that sent Arlovski, his manager Keith Gelman and USO tour manager Dana DePaul to Iwakuni during a tour of Japan.

During Arlovski's stay aboard the station he participated in an instructional clinic at the IronWorks Gym, meet-and-greets and photo opportunities at the Marine Corps Exchange and Hornets Nest, as well as dinner at Club Iwakuni and Crossroads Mall.

"It's a pleasure to meet with the Marines," Arlovski said. "I respect what they're doing for their country."

Arlovski spent time at the IronWorks gym teaching Marines and sailors new tricks involving grappling, striking and Jiu-Jitsu.

"I saw Andrei at the gym, and with the training I have, you know, I thought that I could at least put up a

**SEE VISIT ON PAGE 3**

## IWAKUNI OBON FESTIVAL



**Members of Monie-Fu Boom Boom give a traditional taiko drum performance for an audience of station residents during the Obon festival on the parade deck here Aug. 9. Read the full story on p.6. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez**

## MWSS-171 gathers for family day

**LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE**  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Long deployments and separations can make raising a family in the military a challenge.

That's why it's important for military families to turn to each other for support through rough times, said Gunnery Sgt. Armando Hernandez, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 utilities chief.

MWSS-171 organized a family day Aug. 15 to encourage its families to socialize with each other in a relaxed and social setting.

Hernandez said the timing could not have been any better for the event.

"Right now, all (MWSS-171) Marines are back from deployment, which makes it a perfect time for their families to get together," he said.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey L. Davis pointed out that an event like this helps spouses get acquainted with their husbands'



**A captivated young audience watches "Mr. Frog" construct balloonistic works of art at Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Family Day on Aug. 15. The event was held at the north-side track as a way for families to get together and bond in a relaxed, social setting. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete**

co-workers and their families. His wife listens to him talk about work when he comes home at the end of the day. After an event such as this, Mindee L. Davis can put a face with the name of all the people her husband talks about.

These contacts can become a real safety net when a husband is out on deployment or separated from his family.

Such was the case when Hernandez was in Korea, and his wife Jennifer

received news about a family emergency in the United States.

"With me out of the house and on deployment, the only people she could turn to for support were the other families she had met though events like this one," Hernandez said. "Even though I was far away from my family, I knew my wife had the support she needed as she

**SEE FAMILY ON PAGE 3**

## INSIDE IWAKUNI



**Marines  
behind the  
bombs**

**4**



**Engineers  
triumph  
over Fil-Am  
49-29**

**11**



**Youth  
All-Stars  
end baseball  
season**

**12**



# Corporals Course 2-08 graduates



Cpl. Rene L. Munoz, class leader for Corporals Course 2-08, leads the class in the noncommissioned officer creed during the classes graduation at the station chapel here Aug. 15. Class 2-08 graduated with an overall grade point average of 87.9 and a physical fitness test average of 240. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

**LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI**  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

After roughly three weeks of drill, field operations, physical training, uniform inspections and leadership training, Corporals Course class 2-08 graduated at the station chapel here Aug. 15.

Of the 30 corporals who began the course July 15, 29 made it through to the end.

Class 2-08 had a course grade point average of 87.9 percent and physical fitness test average of 240.

"It's not easy, but it's worth it," Cpl. Justin R. Ellis, the honor graduate from Marine Air Control Squadron 4 said. "It forges camaraderie around the base."

Being selected as honor graduate represents the best overall performance; however, four other Marines were able to distinguish themselves from their course peers.

Cpl's Raymond E. Vanwey and Marc A. Thompson of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 were the first and second distinguished graduates respectively.

Cpl. Andrew E. Lund of Combat Logistics Company 36 was selected as Ironman with a 300 PFT.

Cpl. Quinteen J. Santana of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 was selected by his peers as the gunn ho Marine. The gunn ho award is awarded to the Marine who embodies the spirit of teamwork.

Overall, the course is intended to transform the corporals by maximizing their effectiveness as leaders and more.

"You're no longer a lemming, you have to think and make decisions," Staff Sgt. Cashmore, the chief instructor and 1st squad advisor for 2-08, said. "But it's so much more than just a leadership course."

The course presented a variety of challenges to the Marines, including some particularly demanding physical fitness.

With the addition of crew-served weapons to the hike, the field operations were modified slightly for this iteration of the course.

"We went about 10 miles carrying crew-served weapons," said Lund. I didn't want to jump in the van if the other corporals were still out there."

The course isn't just physical training though and there are a few tips to prepare prior to taking the course.

Time management and uniforms were both mentioned as important keys for success by Cashmore.

Hailing back to the warrior's breakfast of boot camp, the instructors also added a warrior's dinner where sergeants major and staff noncommissioned officers served the Marines dinner to help them stay focused.

Even though the course may sound like a rehashed piece of boot camp, that isn't necessarily true according to Lund.

"It's a short, sweet and beneficial course," said Lund. "It's not boot camp. It's not as bad as most people think."

For those considering the course, there are more changes planned for the next iteration as Cashmore takes over as the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"I'm planning to make the course a week longer to focus on the field operations," said Cashmore.

## 500-lb explosives: some assembly required

**LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI**  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Bombs don't come in a crate. Some bombs are rather simple while others might be laser-guided with technological bells and whistles. Someone has to add components based on mission requirements. Once assembled, they are all harbingers of destruction.

During Exercise Southern Frontier 2008, a four-week air training exercise, ordnance Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 have assembled various bombs to support the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 242 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94.

During the exercise, air-to-ground attacks were the focus, and behind every dropped piece of ordnance was the MALS-12 ordnance Marines.

"We just build the bombs up, assemble them however the squadron requests them, deliver them to the squadron and load them on the birds," Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Carrier, the MALS-12 Ordnance

assistant staff noncommissioned officer in charge here, said.

Weight, fuse delay, arming delay, laser-guided, even a detonation delay after impact — ordnance Marines can customize the bombs in a cornucopia of combinations based on mission parameters.

The operations sections of the squadrons can change their order at any time based on what the mission may dictate, Staff Sgt. Daniel Flick, MALS-12 Ordnance staff noncommissioned officer in charge here, said.

In order to minimize lost time and get ahead of the game, ordnance Marines will attempt to predict what the squadrons will request based on what exercises are planned.

Besides the strain caused by changes in operations, ordnance Marines also must operate safely; after all, they are dealing with explosives.

To perform an ordnance evolution, there are certain roles that must be filled so not everyone is assembling ordnance.

The teams consist of a quality assurance/

safety observer, a team leader, and team members.

As the name implies, the QASO, being the most experienced member, generally doesn't build but instead watches the team perform to ensure everyone is following procedure safely and correctly.

The team leader will assign jobs and function as additional eyes for safety purposes.

In order to maintain their qualifications, ordnance Marines must be certified every 180 days on every weapons system, said Carrier.

Qualifications aren't just about assembling but also include storage and delivery.

When something can't be assembled properly, is dropped further than specification allows or is unfit for use, ordnance will pass it off to explosive ordnance disposal here for it to be destroyed.

"We have 180 high-explosive bombs, and of those ten have been unusable," said Carrier. "It's a small percentage, but you're always going to have a handful."



Cpl. Fernando Banda, a MALS-12 ordnance technician, attaches a dexter clip to a BSU-86 fin on a high-explosive 500-pound bomb. The release, if used by the squadron, will allow the fins to open up during free fall and create drag, allowing the aircraft to escape bomb fragmentation. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

# Voters Week to encourage absentee voting

**LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETTE**  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Department of Defense has organized a campaign to encourage service members and overseas citizens to obtain absentee ballots and vote in this year's election.

The DOD-wide campaign, Voters Week, is coming to the station Aug. 29 and will last until Sep. 7.

"We're not trying to force anyone to vote," said David M. Naseer, station deputy inspector. "We just want people to

understand that they can still vote while they're stationed overseas."

The campaign is designed to make absentee ballots available to anyone on the station who wishes to vote in this year's election.

"We're the only military installation that's gone as far as producing a TV commercial that encourages residents to vote," said Naseer.

Voters Week is the last safe week prior to the November election where service members and overseas citizens can send in a Federal Post Card Application to register as an absentee voter.

Submitting now will ensure sufficient transit time for voters to receive a ballot, fill it out and mail it back to their local election official before the November election.

Although the campaign doesn't officially begin until Aug. 29, there will be an Information Fair Saturday at Club Iwakuni from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to inform residents about voting.

Other information regarding registration and obtaining an absentee ballot is available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). At left below is a contact roster of station UVAOs.



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Michael Molesta, an infantryman assigned to 1st Platoon, Company F, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, climbs to the top of a destroyed building in a Taliban headquarters fighting positions, IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and the capture of a Taliban fighter. Photo by Cpl. James M. Mercure

## LSS Green Belt class graduates

SUBMITTED BY THE  
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT  
OFFICE

Aug. 1, eleven more Lean Six Sigma Green Belts received their Course Completion Certificates in a ceremony at the Continuous Process Improvement Office (CPIO) here.

Green Belts are able to return to their work areas and commence projects on their own, or with small teams of colleagues who understand their work issues and who are committed to making Iwakuni processes better. The CPIO monitors all Green Belt Projects and assists all areas as needed.

There have been many processes that have already been improved here on the station. Each month, one of these station process improvements will be highlighted at the "CPI Corner" at the Crossroads Mall (across from Community Bank).

Belts, Green Belts, Black Belts, and Master Black Belts. Here in Iwakuni, the CPIO trains people at the White Belt level, which is a four-hour introductory-level class designed to provide general process improvement understanding, and also at the Green Belt level, which is a 40 hour class that culminates in a 50-answer examination that ensures the new Green Belts have a thorough understanding of the tools and techniques of Lean Six Sigma.

Green Belts are the backbone of functional process improvement, and the CPIO will continue to offer classes in both English and Japanese to develop our own local Station cadre of process improvement practitioners. At this time, CPIO offers two Green Belt Classes per year, but we are hoping to offer these more frequently during fiscal year 2009. If you are interested in being trained at the Green belt level, you will need to take the White Belt Class first, and these classes are offered quarterly. Those interested in learning the tools of process improvement should start by checking out the Station Training Calendar for the next scheduled White Belt Class.

Green Belts are the backbone of functional process improvement, and the CPIO will continue to offer classes in both English and Japanese to develop our own local Station cadre of process improvement practitioners. At this time, CPIO offers two Green Belt Classes per year, but we are hoping to offer these more frequently during fiscal year 2009. If you are interested in being trained at the Green belt level, you will need to take the White Belt Class first, and these classes are offered quarterly. Those interested in learning the tools of process improvement should start by checking out the Station Training Calendar for the next scheduled White Belt Class.



The lucky white snake parades around the parade deck during the Obon festival Aug. 9. It is believed that touching the snake will bring good luck and wealth. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

# OBON FESTIVAL

## Spirits rise in revel of Japan's age-old festival

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Military members and their families flocked the parade deck Aug. 9 to witness and participate in the annual Obon festival.

The smell of fried soba and yakitori filled the air during the festival and the sounds of laughter and music combed against each other.

Obon is an annual Buddhist event held to celebrate a person's ancestors. It is believed that during Obon the spirits return to visit their relatives. The holiday began Aug. 13 and ended on Aug. 16.

The festival consisted of traditional Japanese drum playing, dance, song and flavorful Japanese cuisine.

"It was a neat experience," said Lance Cpl. Joseph Donovan an analyst with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here. "I will definitely be here again next year."

Also incorporated in the festival was the parade of the white snake. It is thought that if a person touches the snake as is goes by it will bring him good fortune for the following year.

Children, Marines, sailors and their

families scrambled to touch the lucky white snake as it made its rounds throughout the audience.

"I felt a little awkward when I decided to get up and dance," said Benjamin Johnson a logs and records clerk with MALS 12. "But when other people got up, I was glad to be part of the experience."

Children were encouraged to try playing the traditional Japanese drums after a performance by Monie-Fu Boom Boom during the festival.

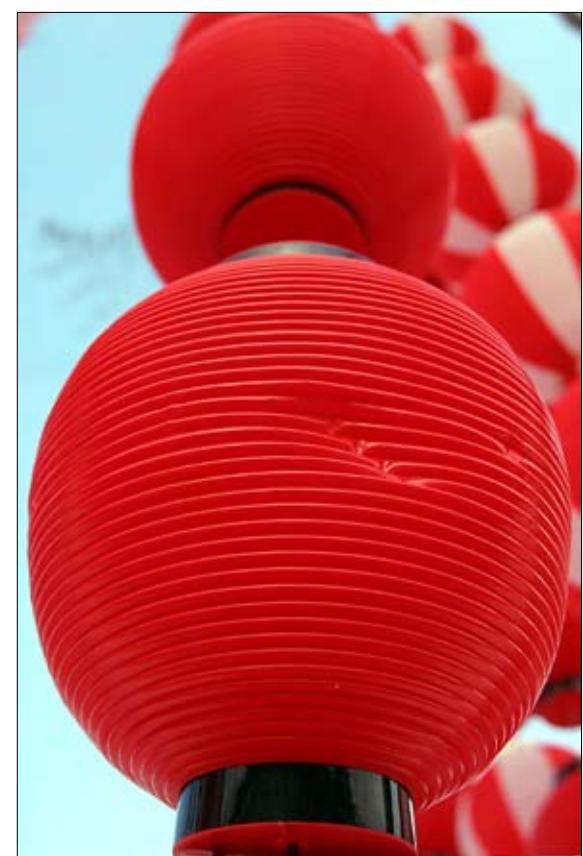
"I like the drums," said eight-year-old Shawn Barriball. "They're really loud."

During the festival the mood changed slightly when the performances were temporarily stopped for the playing of colors.

"It was really neat to see the Japanese civilians and their children standing at attention," Johnson said. "Some of the kids were even saluting."

Despite the heat and on-coming darkness, guests stayed out on the parade deck until the festival ended. Guests spent their time eating, laughing and dancing throughout the evening.

"My favorite part was the food," said Donovan. "Why they didn't have to-go plates, I'll never know."



Lanterns are hung around the Obon festival Aug. 9 on the parade deck. It is believed that when the ancestors visit their families, they are guided by the lanterns. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Members of Monie-Fu Boom Boom play a Japanese song during the Obon festival on the parade deck Aug. 9. Food, drinks were available from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Marines, sailors and their families came to witness the Obon festival on the parade deck Aug. 9. Guests were urged to participate in the traditional dances and events associated with the holiday. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Eight-year-old Shawn Barriball plays the traditional Japanese drums during the Obon festival held on the parade deck Aug. 9. Performers encouraged participation from the audience during and after their performances. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

## Classifieds

**Automobiles****1995 Mazda MPV**

Asking \$2,500. New JCI Insurance, no repairs, excellent condition! Cold AC, rear seat controls, seats seven, low mileage - 68,000km, tinted windows. Call 253-2034 (home).

**Nissan Gloria Brougham**

\$2,200 OBO. Excellent condition, well maintained. Lots of space, comfortable ride. Keyless entry, power window, auto-lock, AC/heater, GPS and iPod-enabled with video input. Extra set of tail lights included JCI until Sept. 2009. Touch-screen control for TV, radio and air system with voice-controlled neon light. Remote-start engine up to 300 meters. For more information, call at 253-5252 (work), 253-2139 (home), or 090-6518-4174 (cell phone).

**Mess Hall Schedule****MONDAY**

Cream of Broccoli Soup, French Onion Soup, Baked Chicken and Rice, Yakiniku (Steak and vegetables), Steamed Rice, Lyonnaise Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Chicken Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Chocolate Cream Pie, Whipped Topping, Banana Cake w/, Butter Cream Frosting, SPECIALTY BAR: PASTA BAR

**TUESDAY**

Minestrone Soup, Tomato Soup, Pork Ham Roast, Shrimp Scampi, Potatoes Au Gratin, Steamed Rice, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Combo, Cheese Biscuits, Brownies, Spice Cake w/ Butter cream Frosting, Coconut Cream Pie, SPECIALTY BAR: TACO BAR

**WEDNESDAY**

Chicken and Rice Soup, Cream of Broccoli, Chili Mac, Grilled Cheese, Tempura Fried Fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Oven Glo Potatoes, Broccoli Polonaise, Peas and Mushrooms, Dinner Rolls, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Florida Lemon Cake, Lemon Butter Cream Frosting, Blueberry Pie, SPECIALTY BAR: BBQ

**THURSDAY**

Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Apple Glazed Corn Beef, Teriyaki Chicken, Rissole Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, Succotash, Fried Cabbage, Hot Mustard Sauce, Chicken Gravy, Cornbread, Pecan Brownies, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, SPECIALTY BAR: DELI BAR

**FRIDAY**

Beef Rice Soup, Oven Roast Beef, Honey Glazed Cornish Game Hens, Mashed Potatoes, Savory Bread Dressing, Brown Gravy, Simmered Corn O'Brien, Simmered Broccoli, Cherry Pie, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Strawberry Shortcake, Whipped Topping

Suspension, HID Light Kit - For more information, call 253-4147 (work) or 253-2970 (home).

**Job openings****Job available at Station Chapel**

Protestant Pianist, Protestant Organist, Christian Non-denominational Music Director, Protestant Director of Religious Education, Catholic Director of Religious Education, Catholic Organist, Catholic Choir Director. For more information, call Contract office, Logistics Department at 253-4233.

**Part-time agent position at SatoTravel**

This position is responsible for booking air, car and hotel reservation for military travelers in official duty status using the Sabre CRS. It is desirable for the candidates to have travel agency or airline experience, and Sabre CRS experience. Send resumes to Matsumi Kenat via e-mail mkenat@cwtsatotravel.com. No phone inquiring accepted.

**Miscellaneous****Jam Band Auditions**

A local vocalist/acoustic guitarist is compiling a jam band to play covers in the local area. A keyboardist, bassist, drummer, percussionist and saxophone player are desired. Influences - Dave Matthews Band, Coldplay, City and Colour, and Rufus Wainwright. Please call 253-2356 and leave a detailed message, or e-mail inner.vision@yahoo.com.

**Mess Hall announcements****Labor Day closure**

The Southside Messhall will be closed Sept. 8 in observance of Labor Day. It will reopen the following day with weekend hours (9 p.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). The Northside Messhall will be open Sept. 8, serving meals on weekend hours (9 p.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.) from Sept. 8 to Sept. 9.

**Labor Day meal Aug. 29**

There will be a Special Labor Day Lunch Meal served Aug. 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at both North and Southside Messhalls. Mongolian barbecue will not be served. Everyone aboard the station is invited. Those on commuted rations (COMRATS), family members and civilian employees must pay \$3.85. Family members of those ranking E4 and below must pay \$3.30.

# INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

## Engineers triumph over FIL-AM 49-29



Engineers point guard Michael Lowe assesses Fil-Am's defense before making a strategic decision during an intramural basketball game Aug. 12 in the IronWorks gym. The Engineers' unit camaraderie helped them defeat Fil-Am 49-29. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

**LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD**  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The gym was stifling as medical's team, Fil-Am, battled it out on the courts against Marine Wing Support Squadron 171's Engineers during an intramural basketball game in the Ironworks Gym Aug. 12.

After two intense 20-minute halves, the Engineers proved that they were a team to be reckoned with when they beat Fil-Am 49-29.

The game started off with vicious sprints up and down the court and with baskets being made from both teams.

However, Fil-Am could not have anticipated the fight they would have to put out in order to beat the aggressive Engineers.

"The other team had good coordination," said Fil-Am point guard Michael Patacsil. "They are a tough team."

Finishing up the first half, Engineers center Jake "D.T.F." House sank a three-point shot that ended the half in favor of the Engineers, 25-13.

"We're down by 12," Patacsil said during the half. "We need to tighten up our defense so we can come back in

the second half."

Engineers celebrated their lead during the second half without insulting the other players.

"We've got this," said Engineers forward Chris "Bebo" Hayden to his teammates during half-time. "Keep moving and keep up with the next guy and this will be our game."

Both teams went into the second half of the game with full force as Fil-Am center Vic Dumaslan shot a two-pointer off the backboard in less than a minute.

"We needed to work on getting the rebounds," Dumaslan said. "The other team had really bold movements."

The chemistry between each team's players escalated as the Engineers lead increased, causing Fil-Am to step up their game.

"Everybody stepped up their game in the second half," House said. "We have good camaraderie from working together and the love of the game, so that helps."

Engineers point guard Michael Lowe missed two foul shots with seven seconds left. He immediately caught the rebound and sank a two-pointer ending the game.



A Tigers pitcher winds up for the delivery of a 7-5 win against Yamaguchi Minor at Friendship Field here Aug. 10. The team experienced their last win of the post-season All-Star league during the tournament. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services

Going out in style, a member of Iwakuni's 2008 Youth All-Star baseball team, the Tigers, smacks away the one of the last pitches in their final game against Saeki Minor at the Friendship Field here Aug. 10. Although their post-season record has been better, the Tigers walked away from with an experience they can take with them when they leave Japan. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services

## 2008 YOUTH ALL-STAR BASEBALL ‘Tigers’ end season

**LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD**  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2008 Youth All-Star baseball team ended its season Aug. 10 at Friendship Field here after beating Saeki Minor, 11-2.

Playing on the team was a chance for the children to meet new people and gain an experience they can take with them when they leave Japan, said Beth Pelletier, one of the parent volunteers.

The team is made up of children from regular-season baseball teams including the Phillies, Astros and Yankees. At the end of the season, coaches chose

children from their teams to go up against Japanese All-Star teams.

The Tigers are lead by three coaches — Coach Cory Yerger, Coach Jim Mocarski and Coach John Patterson.

This season's lineup consists of 11 male athletes and Emily Pelletier, the team's only female player.

The season kicked off with a bumpy start with the Tigers losing their first two games without scoring a single run on the Friendship Field here July 13.

Following their initial losses, The All-Star team headed to their first away game in Hiroshima, where they lost another match to Rijyo Tournament, 18-

12. After Hiroshima's loss, the All-Star team headed to their next away game in Kasaoka, Japan. The All-Star Tigers got another disappointing loss to Kasaoka City Mayor Cup, 0-27.

“These were our very first games so the kids were nervous,” said Pelletier. “The team has very good spirit and the players kept a great attitude after every game, win or lose. Most have only been playing for a few months and the Japanese have been playing for years.”

Emily has been playing baseball since she was five years old when her usual opponent was her father, she said. When he's deployed, it makes her feel good to

play baseball.

“It feels good to be the only girl player,” Emily said. “During the regular season there are a lot of girls and I was the only one who got picked.”

Following the previous losses, the Tigers got their first taste of victory on their home field when they squeaked by Kasaoka City Mayor Cup, 9-7.

Prior to the defeat of Saeki Minor, the All-Stars prevented a loss to Yamaguchi Minor, beating them 7-5 at Friendship Field here Aug. 10.

The 10- through 12-year-old children on team won three games against their Japanese opponents this year.

Iwakuni's 2008 Youth All-Star baseball team, the Tigers, poses for a group following their victorious final game of post-season competition. The All-Star team was able to tour through Hiroshima and Kasaoka after regular-season games. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services

