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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 11, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

PHOTO STORY

Marines, JMSDF hit pavement



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

A little more than halfway through the annual Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Ekiden, a large 40-lap relay race running most of the day, Capt. Jason M. Kut, station supply officer, grabs his team's sash and begins his leg of the race near the port here March 10. Kut, an avid runner, plans to participate in the Tokyo Marathon 2009 later this month. Read the full story on pages 6 and 7.

Road tax: ■ Pay to drive or walk and save

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Road tax officials will be at the Provost Marshal's office here to collect the annual road tax from station vehicle owners April 8-10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The annual road tax is a tax by the Japanese government on all vehicles that's due every April in order to legally drive a vehicle.

"All vehicle owners have to pay it. If you don't have a vehicle, you don't have to worry about it," said Sgt. Carrie White, Provost Marshal's Office physical security specialist.

The price of the road tax varies. For heavy vehicles, the cost ranges from ¥7,500 to ¥32,000. For light vehicles, the range of pay is ¥500 to ¥3,000.

Motorcycle and scooter owners need to pay the tax as well. They fall into the light vehicle bracket.

"If you do not take advantage of the road tax officials coming to PMO, then you have to go off base to pay it," said White.

Light vehicles must be taken to city hall and heavy vehicles to the New Symphonia building if the vehicle owners are not able to go to PMO.

"Maps and directions can be acquired at Pass and Registration in the lobby where they are posted in a folder," said White.

To pay the road tax, vehicle owners need their payment in the form of yen and their vehicle title. If they own multiple vehicles, they need to bring a title for each vehicle.

"If you do not pay your Japanese road tax and you get caught driving the vehicle, you risk having your vehicle eventually towed and impounded along with risk being detained," said White.

If vehicle owners are going to be deployed, on temporary additional duty, or on leave during the month of April, they can have anyone pay it for them.

"All they need is the title and the payment. Anybody can pay," said White.

The road tax must be paid in order to get the new base decal as well. Requirements to obtain a new updated base decal are the vehicle, a Japanese title, Japanese Compulsory Insurance, secondary insurance, and a copy of the road tax receipt.

PMO strongly encourages everyone to come during the month of April. After that, you are driving illegally, said White.

Suicide awareness, everyone's job

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Forty-one Marines committed suicide in 2008 and another 146 tried to commit suicide.

According to Marine Administrative Message 0134/09, "this is our highest rate of suicide since 1995 and reflects an unacceptable loss of life for the Marine Corps."

The MARADMIN went on to suggest that more training on suicide prevention is necessary.

"Suicide awareness helps reduce the number of suicide cases," said Lt. Cmdr. Juan Q. Cometa, station chaplain. "It's important for people to know there are chaplains, counselors and other means of finding help."

Beginning March 16, Cometa and other suicide prevention experts began conducting a series of briefs and presentations to bolster suicide awareness here.

The briefs and presentations will last until March 31 with the ultimate goal of

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SEE TAX ON PAGE 3



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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. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Wanting yours

LT. CMDR. ALLEN R. KUSS
STATION COMMAND
CHAPLAIN

There is an old German saying, "Clean your own front steps before you comment on your neighbor's steps." Daily in these difficult economic times, the media informs us of the hoarding of wealth, and the squandering of wealth and resources by some people around the world.

It is easy to feel good about ourselves and congratulate ourselves when we make comparisons. But before we sit too high on our pedestal, we need to see what rottenness underlies what is happening.

Hoarding, or the biblical word covetousness, is the inordinate

or excessive love of getting and possessing money, possessions, position, and even knowledge.

Covetousness is a serious moral flaw when it becomes a habit. It becomes serious when we are willing to do anything, whatever to possess our objects of attraction. This vice is born of a covetous spirit and heart, which is contrary to generosity and charity.

The word covetousness is seldom used by the media because it sounds so judgmental. Its usage would mean that we might reflect to see how this vice, like any other, harms us and our society.

How many times have we heard it said, "I would do anything to get that." The sad fact is people will do anything to possess money, material wealth and social positions.

From the moral flaw of

covetousness come the media stories covering: fraud, lying, perjury, violence, greed and hard-heartedness toward the economic destitute.

Unfortunately, the 10th commandment's admonition of "thou shall not covet either the neighbor's spouse or goods" goes woefully glossed over.

The cure and the answer to this vice is generosity. This means we need to share our time, our possessions and our money with others.

Generosity stems from the understanding and belief that all things come from a gracious almighty God. It is faith in God who will continue to provide for His creatures and who cares for what He has created.

Generosity shows both trust and hope based on faith in God.

In showing generosity toward others, we mirror His goodness, compassion and ongoing care.

Shoko Elementary School students taste Marine life



Lance Cpl. Alphonse J. Didomenico instructs a student from Shoko Elementary School on how to shoot water from a fire hose during the school's visit here March 11. The 15 students and three instructors visited Station Operations where they learned about various units and their purpose.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Corps Question

Q. Who is allowed to ride the station shuttle bus system?

A. Marine Corps Air Station Order P11240.5L section 4003.1 indicates the shuttle bus system is primarily for active duty military and Department of Defense personnel. Family members are encouraged to use the system on a space available basis. Nowhere in the order does it specify a minimum age requirement to use the bus; however, parents are highly encouraged to take caution when children are riding the bus unsupervised.

Submit your Corps Question by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil.

Patriot Express Space Available: How it all works

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

When news broke of the Patriot Express' return, many started wondering about the opportunities of Space Available travel.

The main purpose of the Patriot Express is to support those making a permanent change of station, but that does not mean there is no opportunity for people interested in Space-A.

In the past, the Patriot Express stopped coming to Iwakuni due to half-filled flights. This time, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni has an allotment of 44 seats available on the flight. The more people using the Patriot Express the better chance it will stay around. Here are some answers to Space-A questions:

1. What is Space Available travel?

Space Available travel is travel aboard Air Mobility Command or other Department of Defense controlled aircraft.

Movement in the time frame passengers may wish is not guaranteed. In cases where customers are not selected for Space-A travel, it is their responsibility to have sufficient funds to complete their journey or return home via commercial means.

2. Who can fly Space-A?

Active Duty Service Members and their family members with proper documentation, DOD civilians with return rights on Unfunded Environmental Morale Leave orders, and retired military personnel and their dependents if accompanied by the retired member are allowed to fly Space-A.

Local hired DOD civilians cannot travel Space-A unless they fall under one of the above categories.

3. How do I sign up for Space-A travel?

You can sign up for Space-A travel in person, by fax or through the sign-up section of the Space Available site on the Iwakuni intranet.

Fax numbers are 253-4294 or 253-3301. Military members must be physically on leave before attempting to fax or sign up in person for Space-A travel.

All passengers 10 years of age and older must have a valid military or dependent ID card in their possession. All travel outside of Japan is considered international travel and requires passports and visas per the Foreign Clearance Guide (DOD 4500.54-G) for all non-military members.

4. What is Space-A showtime?

Space-A show time is 9 a.m. every Saturday at the MCAS Iwakuni Air Terminal. Show time at Seattle is 11:20 p.m. The Patriot Express returns from Seattle every Wednesday. All passengers, required documentation and baggage must be present during the show time. All passengers that make the space available show time must remain present at the terminal. Show times can change at a moment's notice. Call the passenger service section (253-5509) to verify Space-A show times.

5. Parking

Due to current force protection restrictions, there is no parking allowed at the air terminal. Passengers are required to take the local shuttle bus or ride in a government vehicle to the terminal.

6. Flight information

Flight information will no longer be provided via phone, fax or e-mail. A basic flight schedule can be found on the Iwakuni intranet by clicking on the Space Available icon. Flight information can be found on channel five; the station is solely dedicated to the air terminal.

7. Baggage limits

Check-in baggage: Space available travelers are authorized two pieces of checked baggage not to exceed 70 pounds each. If any piece exceeds 70 pounds or 62 linear inches, it counts

as 2 pieces and fulfills the allowance. Travel aboard C-12 or C-35 type aircraft restricts total baggage to 30 pounds. No excess baggage is available for space available passengers.

Hand-carried baggage & infant car seats: Space-A travelers are authorized carry-on items that do not exceed a total of 45 linear inches and must fit under the seat of the traveler or in the overhead compartment.

Infant car seats are recommended for all children who may fall into one of three categories: under the age of two years old, less than 40 inches in height or less than 40 pounds. Infant car seats do not count against passenger's check-in or carry-on allowances.

8. Pets

Pets are not authorized to be moved under the Space-A travel program.

9. Costs

A Federal Inspection Fee of \$12 and a \$15.40 head tax, bringing the total to \$27.40, is collected from each Space-A passenger originating from overseas on AMC Commercial Contract flights. A \$15.40 head tax is collected for those travelers originating from the United States to an international destination on contracted commercial flights. Above fees only apply to commercial contracted flights. All government aircraft Space-A flights are free of charge.

10. Restricted items

The Transportation Security Agency (TSA) publishes lists of restricted items that cannot be carried on an aircraft and also identifies what items are not allowed in your checked baggage. Military terminals are obligated to enforce these restrictions. Check the TSA Web site, <http://www.TSA.gov>, to get a list of the latest restrictions.

For more information regarding the Patriot Express and Space-A travel, contact a passenger service assistant at 253-5509.

Suicide Awareness Month informs

SUICIDE FROM PAGE 1

educating all service members here on ways to prevent suicide.

"Unfortunately, we can't measure emotional and psychological fitness as we can measure physical fitness," said Cometa. "We have the PFT (Physical Fitness Test) to measure physical fitness, but must rely on our perceptions to determine a co-worker's, friend's or fellow service member's emotional well being."

The upcoming briefs will focus on ways to monitor and detect anxiety, depression and typical pre-suicidal behavior in others.

The warning signs and risk factors of suicide include abrupt changes in personality, giving away possessions, talking of wanting to die or commit suicide, problems with co-workers, and neglecting work and personal appearance.

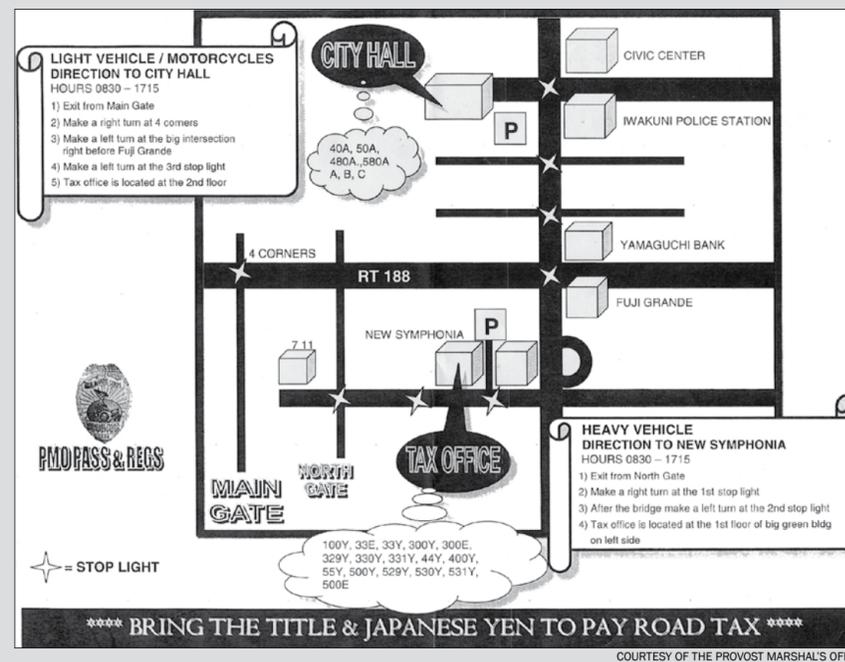
"Just like we say 'never leave a Marine behind' in combat, we must bring that same doctrine to our day-to-day lives," said Cometa. "The signs are usually there, so it becomes our responsibility to act upon them."

The briefs will also attempt to reduce the stigma that prevents Marines from seeking help.

They will delineate the different options for seeking help, whether it be speaking with a chaplain, counselor or medical professional.

Scheduling for the briefs will vary from unit to unit but will be conducted through the end of March as part of Suicide Awareness Month.

TAX FROM PAGE 1



Corrections to the March 13 edition:

The following personnel were improperly ranked in the March Promotions section. The editor sincerely apologizes for the mistake and wishes to correctly identify those personnel.

MWSS-171
Master Gunnery Sgt. Simpson, Saintclaire L.
Master Gunnery Sgt. Smith, Michael L.
Master Sgt. Wade, Dianne

Exercise Cope Tiger 2009



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — A flight crew Marine watches as Maj. Brad Hipp, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 224 pilot training officer and the red team air mission commander, prepares to take off to participate in an interoperability flight training scenario as Exercise Cope Tiger 2009 progressed to its third day here March 11. During the training scenario, participating Cope Tiger aviation units are split into opposing red and blue teams in which the red team act out the aggressors.

Marines, allies improve interoperability

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — U.S. Marines and Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force and Republic of Singapore Air Force aviation units took to the skies to continue interoperability flight training scenarios as Exercise Cope Tiger 2009 progressed to its third day here March 11.

Scenarios, with a focus on mission accomplishment through multilateral interoperability, have been planned in which aviation units are split into opposing red and blue teams in order to better the working relationship with all participating nations.

Iwakuni-based Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 224 aircraft were placed in the red multinational force team along with Singaporean and Thai aircraft to act out as the aggressors against the blue multina-

tional force team made up of the U.S. Air Force and Royal Thai Air Force units.

"Being able to accomplish a tactful mission with so many backgrounds of training, language barriers and experience levels is huge," said Capt. Robert Guyette, a VMFA(AW)-224 pilot. "Seeing

"Being able to accomplish a tactful mission with so many backgrounds of training, language barriers and experience levels is huge."

— Capt. Robert Guyette

somebody that does not talk like you or fly like you - to be somewhat comfortable with that is invaluable because you spend less time worrying about the little things, and you can concentrate on the mission."

The scenario, involving approximately 28 aircraft, required the

red team to conduct offensive actions and strike three different target areas the blue team was tasked to defend.

Guyette said the most important thing he saw and learned from during the scenario was the planning that went into getting Marine F/A-18s, Thai F-16s and

Singaporean F-5S together and airborne.

"To see the planning and to understand your part in a huge combat exercise is pretty impressive," said Guyette.

Once all units took to the skies, the different backgrounds and experience levels of the pilots be-

came more apparent as the scenarios began to take place.

"I was very impressed with all the forces," said Maj. Brad Hipp, VMFA(AW)-224 pilot training officer and the red team air mission commander during the scenario.

The Singaporean and Thai Air Forces' flight leads were impressive while their situational awareness was superb, added Hipp.

The combat scenario carried out by the opposing teams focused more on testing the blue multinational force's various defensive skills.

"It was a great training opportunity," said Hipp. "Even though we were providing the training today for the blue team, we still got a lot out of it through the planning, the coordination between the multinational air forces, and then executing and getting all those airplanes airborne."

The members of the red and blue team switch off day-to-day to execute training on both sides.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

Lance Cpl. Travis C. Fahsholtz, a Combat Logistics Company 36 heavy equipment operator, hands a certificate of congratulations to a local kindergartner during his graduation ceremony held at the Kinnan Yochien (Kindergarten) complex March 12. A total of four CLC-36 Marines had the privilege of presenting certificates to the kindergarten's most recent graduating class.

CLC-36 Marines visit local kindergarten, hand out diplomas

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines assigned to Combat Logistics Company 36 frequently visit the Kinnan Yochien (kindergarten) complex throughout the year as part of their ongoing effort to build a strong relationship with the local community.

On March 12, four CLC-36 Marines had the privilege of presenting certificates of congratulations to the kindergarten's most recent graduating class.

The four CLC-36 Marines stood tall in their dress blue uniforms before an audience of teachers, parents and students.

One-by-one, the Marines called out the names of 20 soon-to-be first graders.

"This is something these kids will treasure for the rest of their lives," said Shigeo Ishii, the kindergarten's principal. "We appreciate what (the Marines) do here for us and the friendship we have developed."

For more than five years, CLC-36 Marines have made visits to the kindergarten with the intent of exposing the 5- and 6-year-olds to common English phrases and interacting with them in their small classrooms.

The visits usually happen once a month and involve the participation of different Marines each time, all of whom volunteer for it.

"It's very refreshing to take a moment from work to spend

time with the children," said Cpl. Andrew E. Lund, one of the four CLC-36 Marines who participated in the graduation ceremony March 12. "It's kind of awkward at first, not knowing how to act with Japanese kids, but eventually you get into the spirit of being around kids again and you get lost playing games with them and having fun with them."

The main reason the four CLC-36 Marines presided over the kindergartner's graduation ceremony March 12 was to mark the conclusion of the kids' first introduction to the English language.

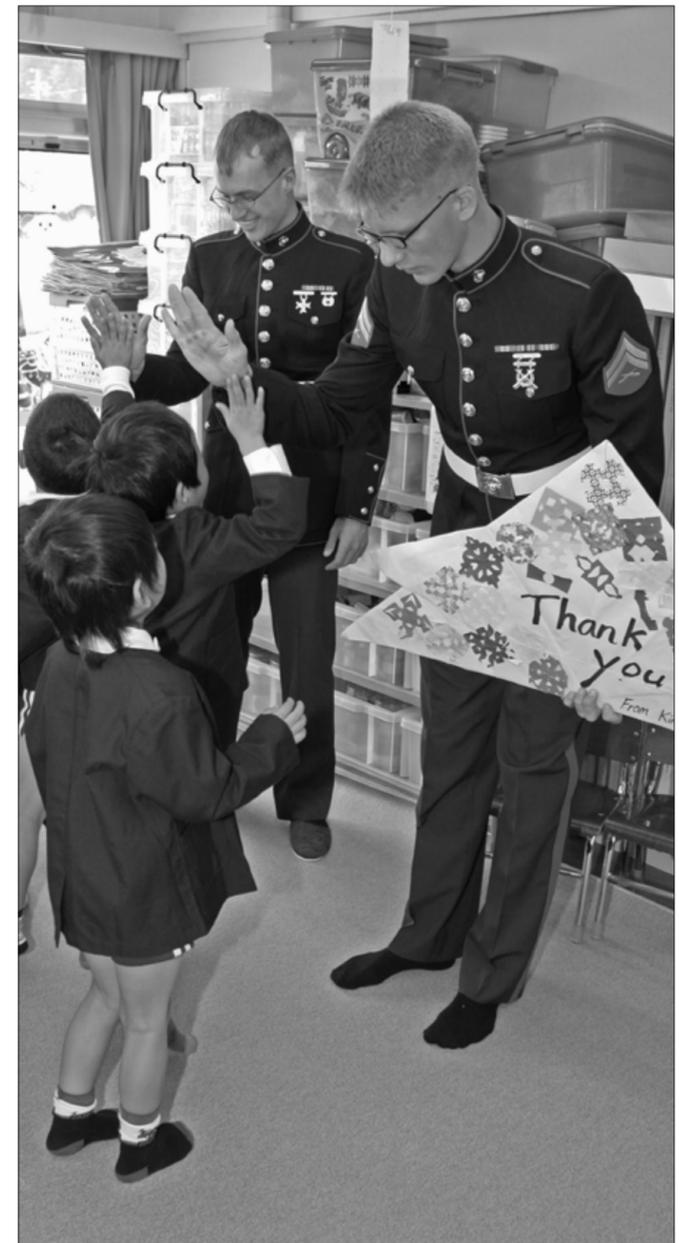
Each child will interact with the visiting Marines eight to 10 times a year, said Ishii. The first time they see the Marines is sometimes the first time they see a foreigner and hear a foreign language.

As the children progress into first grade and elementary school, they will begin formal classroom instruction on the English language.

"The Marines helped them get a head start here at the kindergarten," said Ishii. "That's why we hope they continue to come."

The CLC-36 Marines met with the principal and other teachers and staff after the graduation ceremony to plan their next visit.

The next visit will take place April 8 when the incoming kindergartners take a short spring break after completing preschool.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

Cpl. Andrew E. Lund and Lance Cpl. Travis C. Fahsholtz give high-fives to members of Kinnan Yochien's most recent graduating class at their graduation ceremony March 12. A total of four CLC-36 Marines had the privilege of presenting certificates to the kindergartners.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

After the four Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines handed 20 graduating students their certificates, a group of kindergartners handed the Marines a gift of appreciation. Pfc. Adam M. Batterseamolto, Cpl. Andrew E. Lund, Pfc. Sukey A. Delisle and Lance Cpl. Travis C. Fahsholtz were the four CLC-36 Marines to preside over the graduation ceremony held at the Kinnan Yochien (Kindergarten) complex March 12.

JMSDF EKIDEN 2009

Sgt. Sharla L. Shima, a career planner with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, begins her leg of the race for the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force annual relay race held near the port here on March 10. A special point system was set in place to make the race fair for men and women of all ages.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Lance Cpl. Brandon S. Swecker, an individual material readiness list asset manager with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, passes off the sash to Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Buckley, a military policeman with the Provost Marshal's Office, at the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force annual relay race held near the port here on March 10. This year was a first for using the sashes. This relay was also the first year the race was open to all skill levels.

Marines, sailors, Japanese compete, forge running bonds of brotherhood

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The sun had just risen and groups of runners were already stretching in preparation for a fierce and friendly competition. The crisp ocean air swept across the crowd, leaving many participants' arms crossed and faces flushed. An announcement over the loud speaker called runners to the starting line. At the quick bang from a pistol, the runners leaped into action.

Marines and sailors here participated in the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force's 2009 Ekiden, or relay race, near the port here March 10.

JMSDF invited local U.S. service members to the event that has become an annual day of fun and exercise along with the opportunity to build relationships within units and the community.

"It helps us develop the mindset of pride and teamwork," said Capt. Hiroshi Horii, JMSDF Fleet Air Wing 31 chief of staff.

Approximately forty JMSDF teams and three U.S. teams participated in the event. Each

team participating in the race was made up of a diverse range of runners, men and women, young and old. A point system was designed to keep the race competitive for the wide range of runners. Participants were scored based on the average for a person of the same sex and age.

really good," said Pvt. Lewis C. Meredith, an S-3 training clerk here. "The Japanese, on the other hand, are running fantastic. They are really gifted."

While Meredith spoke of the Japanese's gift, others declared their admiration for their persistent dedication to fitness.

"Every time I look out at the seawall, I always see them running," said Sgt. Shane E. Wilson, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 S-6 radio operator. "I had hoped we would win, but I knew we would have some tough competition. They are strong, prepared and fast."

The competition lasted well into the afternoon. Spectators held flags and cheered until every last runner crossed the finish line. Who came in first, second or third didn't seem to matter to the crowd.

"I think the event was very helpful and fruitful," said Horii. "It gave an opportunity for U.S. personnel to get to know Japanese culture, and at the same time both U.S. and Japanese service members got to run together for mutual, friendly competition."

Horii said he hopes U.S. service members will be interested in participating in more JMSDF sports events.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

A Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force service member holds onto one of the many flags that line the rally point at the annual JMSDF Ekiden held near the port here March 10.

In order to finish the race a team of runners had to complete 40 laps. Each lap was roughly 1.2 miles, bringing the entire race to a total of 48 miles.

After each runner completed a lap he would pass his sash to the next runner on standby. Teams with less than 40 members had to have runners complete multiple laps in the relay.

"Overall, we are running



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Japanese service members approach the rally point for the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force annual relay race near the port here on March 10. The relay race started at 8:45 a.m. and came to a close eight hours later at 4 p.m. Spectators and participants cheered on runners throughout the day until the very last person crossed the finish line. The Japanese hold the race to help build pride and teamwork.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

All-female Marine team conducts first mission in southern Afghanistan

LANCE CPL. MONTY BURTON
SPECIAL PURPOSE MARINE
AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE
AFGHANISTAN

FARAH PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Marines of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, the ground combat element of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force — Afghanistan, now have a special group of individuals to help them complete their mission in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Marines employ a select group of all-female Marines from within SPMAGTF-A who are trained to interact with the Afghan female population — a task considered culturally unacceptable for their male Marine brethren operating in the Islamic republic.

A similar program has been used in combat operations in Iraq, but this is the first time Marine forces in Afghanistan have employed the concept.

Capt. Mike Hoffman, commanding officer of 3/8's Company I, said the all-female team is an important asset for his Marines.

"(The team) provides us access to half of the population that we normally do not have access to," Hoffman said. "They did extremely well interacting with the female villagers."

2nd Lt. Johannah Shaffer, the team leader, said their first mission, a cordon and search in support of Operation Pathfinder, was very successful.

"We were accepted by both the men and women villagers and were able to obtain valuable information about the way they lived and what they thought about the Marine Corps operating in the area," Shaffer said.

During their first mission, the female Marines deliberately donned brightly colored head and neck scarves as a sign of cultural respect to the Afghan women.

"The scarves showed the Afghan women that we were women too, and we respect their culture," said Shaffer. "They automatically felt

more comfortable with us. They showed us their homes, and even though they didn't have much they were still very generous to us. They accepted us as sisters, and we're glad that we were here to help them."

Although Afghan women tend to be more reserved than Afghan men, they still have a large influence on their children, Shaffer said, so engaging with them is important.

"If the women know we are here to help them, they will likely pass that on to their children," she said. "If the children have a positive perspective of alliance forces, they will be less likely to join insurgent groups or participate in insurgent activities."

Hoffman said the female Marines were also accepted by the village men.

"They were not opposed by the villagers," Hoffman said. "They had no problem allowing (the team) the chance to interact with their women."

According to Shaffer, the concept employed by her team varies greatly from the program in Iraq because of differences in Afghan culture.

"The cultural background here is completely different than that of Iraq," Shaffer said.

"Women here are more timid than in Iraq. There is less of a chance that Afghan women would try to harm us because they understand that we are here to help them."

"We also do not know much about the daily life of Afghan women," she said. "This provides us not only the opportunity to learn about the women, but also to build and maintain faith and trust of the Afghan women."

The mission of SPMAGTF-A is to conduct counterinsurgency operations, with a focus on training and mentoring the Afghan national police. Operation Pathfinder was a deliberate counterinsurgency engagement conducted in coordination with Afghan national security forces along Route 515 in southern Afghanistan.



LANCE CPL. MONTY BURTON

FARAH PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — An Afghan child waves at the members of an all-female Marine team during its first mission March 9, 2009, in Farah Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The team is a select group of female Marines from throughout Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force — Afghanistan trained to engage the Afghan female population — a task considered culturally unacceptable for their male Marine brethren.



LANCE CPL. MONTY BURTON

FARAH PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — 2nd Lt. Johannah Shaffer shares a cookie and a smile with an Afghan child while under the watchful security of Marines assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), during her all-female team's first mission March 9, 2009, in Farah Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The all-female team is an asset used by Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force — Afghanistan to engage with the female Afghan population. Shaffer, the team leader, is assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 3, the logistics combat element of SPMAGTF-A. 3/8 is the ground combat element of SPMAGTF-A. During its first mission, the team deliberately donned brightly colored head and neck scarves as a sign of cultural respect to the Afghan women.



LANCE CPL. MONTY BURTON

FARAH PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Members of an all-female Marine team patrol with Marines of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), the ground combat element of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force — Afghanistan, during their first engagement with the Afghan female population March 9, 2009, in Farah Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Volunteer and Community Partner Open House

March is Red Cross Month. To show our appreciation to our volunteers and community partners without whom our services would be possible, American Red Cross will hold an open house and information fair for all MCAS Iwakuni personnel and families. March 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the American Red Cross Office Marine Chapel Building 1100.

CPR Saturday
March 28 the Red Cross will offer the community the opportunity to learn life-saving skills free of charge. Classes will be offered in both English and Japanese by trained professionals.

Certification classes are also available on this day for half price. Classes will be held in the Red Cross Office and Yujo Hall. Sign up today! Free courses run 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (English/Japanese); 1:30 to 4 p.m. (English); 1:30 to 4 p.m. (Language TBD). Certification courses will cost \$20 and will run 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Japanese) and 1:30 to 5 p.m. (English); space is limited so you must preregister. Current registered Red Cross volunteers can take the class for free. Free child care available.

NMCRS Volunteers Needed
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is looking for individuals who are enthusiastic, dedicated, caring, flexible

and honest! You share, build, and enhance your skills and talents by volunteering as a client services assistant, public speaker, caseworker, knitting/crocheting and more! By providing reimbursement for child care and mileage, we make it easier for you to volunteer. Volunteering can also lead to future job opportunities within NMCRS. You can make a difference today in your military community with as little as one hour of your time. Call our office today at 253-5311!

Budget for Baby Class
NMCRS presents Budget for Baby class. Receive a free baby layette full of baby items by attending a Budget for Baby class. Classes are held once a month at NMCRS in Building 1100, Room 148. The class focuses on financial planning and responsibility before the arrival of a new member of the family. For more information and to sign up, please call 253-5311. All ranks are eligible.

Ordnance Bowling Tournament
March 28, \$15 per person, prizes for 1st through 3rd, showtime 11 a.m., start noon. Go by the Strike Zone and reserve your spot now. For more information, call 253-6140 (work).

Commissary's Annual Easter Egg Hunt
The Iwakuni Commissary is holding its annual Easter egg hunt and fun time for its Iwakuni customers. The hunt is scheduled for April 4. Plans are for the 3- to 5-year old hunt at 12 p.m. and the 6- to 9-year-old hunting at 2 p.m. in the front lawn area of the commissary. Ages 10 to 12 will have the chance to win prizes by completing a special essay in cooperation with the school. See store personnel or check www.commissaries.com, for up to the minute details.

Babysitter Bootcamp
Three day training in babysitting April 7 through 9. First aid and CPR. Morning session babysitters training 8 a.m. to noon Volunteer Summer Orientation 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Afternoon babysitters training 5 to 9 p.m. Meals provided for those who participate in both babysitters bootcamp and the volunteer orientation. Please call the American Red Cross at 253-4525 to sign up! Courses open to 11- to 17-year-old SOFA status residents.

87th Annual Ordnance Golf Tournament
Four-man scramble April 10. \$25 per person (green fee included), every participant receives free gift, free food and drinks, putting and chipping contest, longest drive and closest to pin, prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. 11 a.m.

showtime with a noon shotgun start. For more information call 253-6140(work).

Jazz, Jesus and Japan
(Christian Concert)
March 22, 5 - 7 p.m. at the Station's Chapel. Presented by MCAS Christian Non-Denominational Chapel Community. Featuring Ken and Bola Taylor, and local guest performers. For more information, contact the Marine Memorial Chapel.

PTEC Visit
Members of the Pacific Theater Education Committee will be available to meet with parents and community members to discuss Department of Defense Schools issues 4:30 p.m. at the Matthew C. Perry School Information Center March 25. For more information contact the M. C. Perry Elementary School principal at 253-3327 or the high school principal at 253-5449.

Trouble Conceiving?
Come to a seminar on infertility treatment options with Dr. Atsushi Tanaka. Thursday, March 26, 5:00 pm in the Branch Health Clinic lobby. All interested base personnel are welcome. For more information contact Lt. Gentry at 253-3485.

M.C. Perry Elementary PTO Bingo and Basket Auction
Come bid on a variety of themed baskets with a silent

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Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tues - Fri 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Devine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
11 a.m. Children's Church
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ

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

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities

Teen Programs

- High School Meetings (Club - grades 9-12)
- Junior High Meetings (Club JV - grades 7-8)
- HS&JR Bible Studies
- Retreats
- Service Projects
- Missions Trip
- Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring
- Parent Support Group

Call at 253-5183 or potwic@gmail.com.

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 20, 2009

7 p.m. Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans (R)
Premier
10 p.m. Watchmen (R)
Premier

Saturday, March 21, 2009

1 p.m. Hotel for Dogs (PG)
4 p.m. Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG)
Premier
7 p.m. Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans (R)
10 p.m. Watchmen (R)

Sunday, March 22, 2009

1 p.m. Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG)
7 p.m. Watchmen (R)

Monday, March 23, 2009

7 p.m. Frost/Nixon (R)

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

7 p.m. Watchmen (R)

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

7 p.m. Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans (R)

Thursday, March 26, 2009

7 p.m. Bride Wars (PG)
Last Showing

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.

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

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auction; there's something for everyone. March 27 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Bingo cards \$1 each. For more information contact 253-2180.

Credo Spiritual Growth Retreat

How about the opportunity to focus on the spiritual side of your life; the pursuit of a stronger relationship with God, a Higher Power, or according to your particular faith beliefs; to search for spiritual resources to manage daily living? This free retreat at Yamaguchi-Ken Fureai Park is for those of all faiths and begins Thursday morning March 26 and runs until Saturday afternoon,

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Manhattan clam chowder, chicken and rice soup, sauerbraten, jerked 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 with whipped topping
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Beef noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, Swiss steak with gravy, Szechwan chicken, O'Brien potatoes, noodles jefferson, french fried cauliflower, broccoli parmesan, brown gravy, cheese biscuit, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake with buttercream frosting
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Tomato noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, sweet and sour pork, yakisoba, pork fried rice, brussels sprouts, whole kernel corn, dinner rolls, peanut butter cookies, sweet potato pie, coconut cake with whipped topping
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Minestrone soup, cream of broccoli soup, fried chicken, beef stroganoff, buttered pasta, candied sweet potatoes, okra and tomato gumbo, green bean southern style, chicken gravy, cheese biscuits, double layer devil's food cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie with whipped topping, oatmeal raisin cookies
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

Friday

Beef barley soup, Spanish soup, lemon baked fish, el rancho stew, steamed rice, potatoes au gratin, cauliflower combo, black eyed peas, dinner rolls, brown gravy, apple and cherry turnovers, bread pudding, crisp toffee bars, chocolate pudding with whipped topping
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

March 28. All Marine Corps and Navy active duty, reserve, retired personnel and their family members are eligible to attend (Army, Air Force personnel and civilian DoD/DoDDS employees and family members on a space-available basis). To sign-up and for further details, please contact the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

Japanese-American Society Culture Fair March 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the M.C. Perry Elementary School cafeteria
Events: Nihon Buyoo Dancing, Naginata Demonstration, Taiko Drums, Koto and Fue Performance, Kimono Show, Kagura Dance
Static displays in the cafeteria: Kites, Shishimai Lion, Hinamatsuri Dolls
Activities in the library: Origami, Ikebana, Tea Ceremony, Calligraphy; Static displays in the library: Samurai Rifles, Bamboo Art; Food in the courtyard: Zenzai (sweet red beans), Tea

4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament

The Fil-Am Iwakuni will sponsor the 4-Man scramble golf tournament on April 18. Showtime is at 11:30 a.m., shotgun start at noon. Prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place teams. Free Lumpia, Adobo, rice and drinks. Proceeds from this event will be donated to a children's orphanage charity in the Philippines and to a local Iwakuni orphanage. \$29 for nonmember, \$19 for member. Green fee included. Open to all personnel. For more information, call 253-6084(work).

"Pista Sa Nayon" Town Fiesta

May 30, at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom, doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner and show starts at 6 p.m. Please come out and join the Fil-Am community in celebration of our 14th Annual "Pista Sa Nayon" Town Fiesta. We will have dinner, Filipino performances and a dance to end the evening. Tickets are \$35 which includes an International Buffet Menu. For more information, call 253-6084(work).

Blanket sale — M.C. Perry High School
M.C. Perry High School PTO is selling the Japan blanket. It is of great quality and absolutely gorgeous! For sale at the high school for \$50. For more information, contact M. C. Perry High School at 253-4503.

Girl Scouts Summer Camp 2009

Come and enjoy campfires, story telling, horse back riding and meeting new friends! Open to girls entering third grade and up. June 21-27 in Tama Hills, Japan. Cost: \$225 per girl (add \$10 if not a girl scout). \$100 per adult. Deadline for sign-up is May 15. Visit www.westpacificgirlscouts.com or call (DSN) 645-2323 (Okinawa) / commercial: 098-970-2323 for more information.

Automobiles

2000 Honda Vigor

JCI expires March 2011, car insurance expires June 2009, all new tires and rims, CD player with ipod connection, 4-Door, seats up to 5 passengers. PCS'ing Soon \$2500 OBO *Serious callers only*. Call 080-3537-9949 (cell) or 253-2413 (home).

1993 Toyota Lite Ace

4-door passenger van. Seats 7. Front and rear sun roofs. Free battery included (\$150 value). JCI expires Sept. 2010. Asking \$1,500. If interested, call 253-2508 (work).

1999 Nissan Cube

Bright Yellow. 5-door/4 passenger. Automatic. Great car. Makes people smile! JCI expires Jan 2010. Asking \$2,900. If interested, call 253-2508 (work).

Miscellaneous

Antique Restored Cabinet

Antique cabinet restored into a desk and chair. The middle part of the desk pulls out and is a bench seat. This is a very cool piece! Asking \$302.50. If interested, call 253-2639 (home) or e-mail SNOYL1995@yahoo.com.

Free Cat to a Good Home

1-year-old female, sweet temperament, loving and very cuddly, white, short hair used to kids and dogs. Must find a home before we PCS. Call 253-2990 (home) if interested.

Entertainment Center for Sale

It holds up to a 36" TV. Has two large adjustable shelves as well as three small ones on the side, CD holder, and four large compartments at the bottom for storage. Excellent condition. Asking \$75 OBO. If interested, please call 253-2735 (home) or 080-3172-7210 (cell).

Job Announcements

Job with J&E Associates, Inc. for a health and human services professional

Full-time job with 40 hours per week. J&E Associates, Inc. has an opening for a home visitor as part of the New Parent Support Program, a community-based parent support and education program for Marine and Navy families with children 0-5 years of age. The home visitor will provide parent education through home, hospital/clinic, office and telephone contact to active duty personnel and their families. Competitive salary and full benefits package available.

Must provide: driving record, college transcript, copy of professional license, and submit to an FBI criminal background check with fingerprints if selected.

To apply: Submit a letter of interest and resume one of the following ways:
Deliver: NPSP, Marine and Family Services, Bldg. 411, Room 219, 253-6553
Mail: NPSP, Iwakuni Personal Services Division, PSC 561 Box 1863, FPO AP 96310-0029, DSN Fax: 645-0057, E-mail: resumes@jeassociates.com

Job announcement for WIC overseas Iwakuni

Opportunities are available for a temporary, full-time nutritionist/dietitian/nurse in the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program in Iwakuni. Temporary position begins Aug. 3 - Oct. 2, 2009.

Position requires a BS in Nutrition, Nursing or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition desired. Registered dietitian preferred. Experience in WIC desirable. Must have driver's license. Must be a U.S. citizen.

For immediate consideration, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to Virginia. Johnson.ctr@misawa.af.mil or fax to 226-9585. You may also come to the Iwakuni WIC office in building 411 or call us at 253-4408.

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classified link on the station Web site, and open an advertisement request form. Submit the form via Web site, or send the e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Or you can submit in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.

- The deadline for submissions is Monday at 4:30 p.m.
- The request is effective for one week. If you want to extend a previously submitted ad for an additional week, notify the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

2009 Intramural Spring Basketball



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A player from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Da FAM looks to pass the ball during Monday night's game against the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 242 Bats at IronWorks Gym. Da FAM beat the Bats 53-34 after two halves of tough defensive play. The game kicked off the beginning of the 2009 Intramural Basketball season.

Da FAM beats the Bats 53-34 during season opener

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Da FAM played Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 242 Bats March 16 at IronWorks Gym, kicking off the intramural spring basketball season.

The roster for the season boasts a total of nine teams made up by units around the station.

"None of us are all stars," said Gunnery Sgt. Elijah Franklin, aviation supply chief for MALS-12. "We are all Marines all out here for fun."

Each team will play five games

by the time the season comes to a close on April 22.

After the season ends, the final teams will participate in the post-season playoffs April 27 through May 13.

It may be too soon to start predicting who will be going to the playoffs, but some teams are already showing a promising future.

By the end of the first half, Da FAM had a 17- point lead on the Bats, bringing the score to 32-15. Da FAM had twice as many points along with fouls.

The Bats had three fouls to Da FAM's six, which could either mean the Bats were playing it

easy or that Da FAM just wanted a win more.

"We got off of deployment and on to the court," said Lance Cpl. William Higgins, an airframer for VMFA(AW)-242.

Coming right off a deployment might have explained their slow first period.

After collecting themselves during halftime, the Bats came back with more of a fight.

By the end of the second half, the Bats had eight fouls and Da FAM had five.

Despite the Bats performance in the second half, Da FAM still pulled ahead and won 53-34.

"We came out and played our

best," said Franklin. He said the team plans on practicing defense and working on hitting the board more.

"They (Da FAM) were a good team," said Higgins.

"They work well together. The more we practice the more we will come together as a team," Higgins added.

Both teams, knowing what they need to work on, will go on to play four more games before the end of the season.

To catch a game, visit the IronWorks Gym Mondays through Wednesdays until April 1. Games start at 6, 7 and 8 p.m.

Take me out to the ball game!

2009 Youth Baseball registrations

Registration dates: March 2 - March 28

Place: IronWorks Gym front desk

Age Groups: 3-4 years, 5-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-12 years, 13-15 years

Fee: \$40 per child. For three or more children, the third child is \$35.

After March 28, the cost will be \$45 per child.

For additional information, contact Youth Sports at 253-5777 or 253-3239.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

Youth participants take off from the starting line during the 2009 St. Patrick's Day "Run on the Green" March 14 at the Torii Pines Golf Course here. The youth course was 2.5 kilometers in distance and the adult course was 5 kilometers. The "Run on the Green" was sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, a leprechaun rides on the back of a golf cart at the Torii Pines Golf Course here during the 2009 St. Patrick's Day "Run on the Green" March 14. The leprechaun led competitors through the course and to the finish line. Competitors were encouraged to try to catch the leprechaun. The run was open to the entire community regardless of gender or age.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

St. Patrick's Day 'Run on the Green'

Competitors chase the leprechaun, go for the gold

Race Results

2.5K YOUTH: 6 YEARS AND YOUNGER

BOYS:

Jeremiah Figueroa (1st place)
Camron Olivas (2nd place)
Alex Calderon (3rd place)

GIRLS:

Rhianna Smedes (1st place)
Olivia Calderon (2nd place)
Rachel Workman (3rd place)

2.5K YOUTH: 7-8 YEARS

BOYS:

Jacob Keasler (1st place)
Conner Strauss (2nd place)
Steven Workman (3rd place)

GIRLS:

Gabby Calderon (1st place)
Mallie Keasler (2nd place)
Kapani Kirkland (3rd place)

2.5K YOUTH: 9-10 YEARS

BOYS:

Josh Lindquist (1st place)
Isaac Feyedelem (2nd place)
Jareem Westcott (3rd place)

GIRLS:

Maria Calderon (1st place)
Breana Lewis (2nd place)
Sarah Bradley (3rd place)

2.5K TEEN: 11-12 YEARS

BOYS:

Jake Feyedelem (1st place)

GIRLS:

Cecilia Calderon (1st place)
Jamie Bradley (2nd place)

2.5K TEEN: 15-16 YEARS

GIRLS:

Vanessa Arevedo (1st place)

5K ADULT: 17-29 YEARS

MEN:

Andrew Lund (1st place)
Daniel Negrete (2nd place)
Cole Miller (3rd place)

WOMEN:

Catalina Farias (1st place)

5K ADULT: 30-39 YEARS

MEN:

Jason Kut (1st place)
Adrian Figueroa (2nd place)
John Bradley (3rd place)

WOMEN:

Vickie Feyedelem (1st place)
Sayaka Takatayashi (2nd place)
Billie Dysinger (3rd place)

5K ADULT: 40-49 YEARS

MEN:

Darrin Bellows (1st place)
Andrew Strauss (2nd place)
M.A. O'Halloran (3rd place)

WOMEN:

Tania Keasler (1st place)



COURTESY OF MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 12

Approximately 40 Marine and sailor noncommissioned officers of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here went skiing at Osorakan Ski Mountain in Osorakan, Japan, Feb. 27. The trip provided a way for the MALS-12 NCOs to come together and get to know each other and build camaraderie. All the NCOs donated approximately \$300 combined to offset the cost of transportation for the Marines and sailors to and from the mountain.



COURTESY OF MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 12

The staff noncommissioned officers of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here went skiing in Mizoho, Japan, Feb. 6. The trip pulled the senior leadership together for a time of rest from the normal hustle and bustle of the everyday workplace and allowed a full day of cohesion. The day was full of high speed runs and beginner face plants, but at the end of the day, everyone was full of smiles, fresh stories, new friends and more esprit de corps. The MALS-12 SNCO Association paid for transportation.