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HIS PHILOSOPHY, HIS PLANS | P. 4

FAR EAST REGIONAL SOFTBALL
Find out what Iwakuni did for first time in 15 years | p. 12

FEATURE

SPORTS

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 32, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Chosen few visit legendary WWII sites

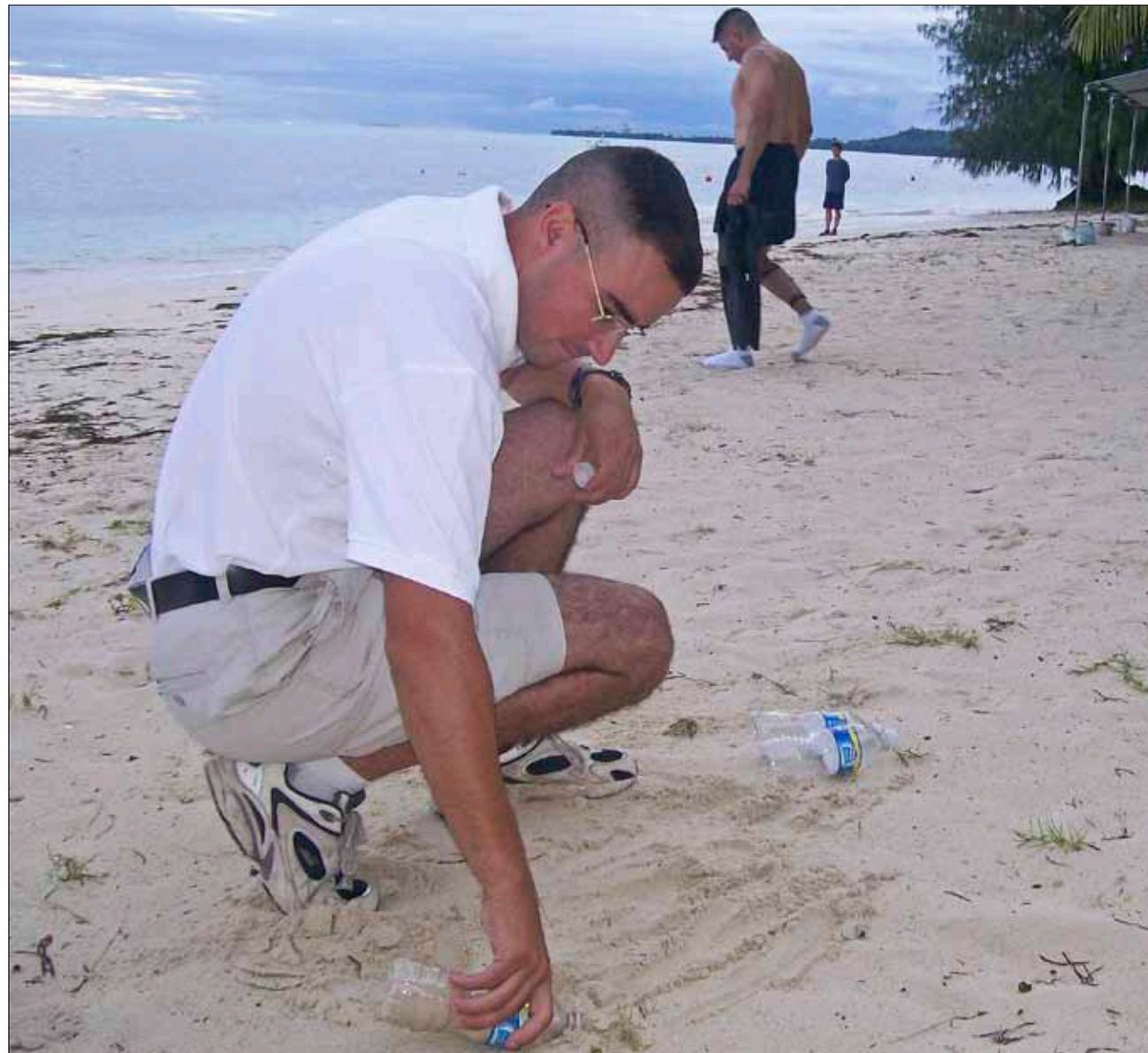


PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE

An island hopper scoops sand into a bottle from the beach on Saipan Aug. 5 during the island-hopping trip. Nine Marines had the opportunity to journey to seven historic battle sites including Saipan, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, Guam and Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima. Read the full story on pages 6 & 7.

Mama mia! Italian meal wins chef top honors

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Every quarter, the best chefs from both mess halls and the Food Service Division Office come together to compete for the Chef of the Quarter title.

During the Chef of the Quarter Board at the Southside Mess Hall here Aug. 20, Lance Cpl. Jose Flores proved he is the best Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni has to offer when it comes to culinary expertise.

The competition started off Aug. 19 with five Marines looking sharp in their service "C" uniforms for the knowledge portion.

On the first day the Marines were tested on their professionalism and bearing during the oral exam. Then they were directed to three tables where they had to identify five different spices using taste, smell and texture, give the proper names for kitchen equipment and identify the different parts of a meat thermometer.

At the end of day one all five contestants were within only a few points of each other.

"This is the closest I have seen so far," said Master Sgt. John B. Bass, the food service technician.

When day two rolled around, a few of the contestants showed up as early as 5:30 a.m. to set up their display tables and prepare their products.

The Marines couldn't hide the passion they had for their job. Once they started cooking, no one could stop them from accomplishing their goal.

"I love to cook," said Lance

MALS-12 welcomes new top Marauder

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson was appointed as sergeant major of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 during a relief-and-appointment ceremony on the parade field in front of Building 1 here Aug. 20.

Benson succeeded Master

Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson, who replaced Sgt. Maj. James Kirkland on June 11.

It was an honor and a pleasure to be the MALS-12 sergeant major, Patterson said.

Patterson will remain here as the MALS-12 aviation supply chief.

"I really want to thank Master Gunny Patterson," said Benson.

This further proves master gunnery sergeant's really don't have a problem doing a sergeant's major job, but a sergeant major can't do a master gunnery sergeant's job, he added.

Benson, whose prior assignment was serving as the Recruiting Station Twin Cities sergeant

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SEE **CHEF** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Fully developing as human beings'

LT. CMDR. ALLEN R. KUSS
STATION COMMAND
CHAPLAIN

The end of summer marks the beginning of a new school year in every community.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is filled with the same anticipation and expectation as children and young adults prepare to begin a new stage in their lives.

The anticipation is about learning something new about the world and all it holds.

It is about making new friends and growing with them.

It is about learning new things about ourselves and our contributions to the world we share.

Regardless of our age or the amount we have learned, there is always more we can learn.

Those who claim to be constantly bored and others who claim there is nothing to do could be in the grip of the vice of sloth.

Sloth is the habitual disinclination to exercise the physical, mental or spiritual aspect of oneself.

The slothful are unwilling to appreciate and wonder about the complexity of living creatures,

the vast expanse of the universe, or the vast volumes of books that delve into countless subjects in the library and on the Internet.

To be really alive we need to learn new things, meet new people and use what we learn to improve ourselves and society.

The lessons learned in the classroom during professional military training and recreation are important for intellectual and social development.

But, all of this is not enough.

There is also the spiritual component that needs to be nurtured and developed in order for a person to be healthy.

The spiritual component equips them to contribute to the family, to society and to the world at large.

The development and nurturing of the spiritual aspect of our community is the duty and privilege of our chaplains aboard the station.

Just as the new academic year begins, the spiritual formation and training for all ages continues in our chapel community.

Along with the various worship services, religious educational programs are being offered according to the various needs of

our community.

The following are just a few of the present religious educational opportunities available with more provided as needed.

Catholic: Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for youth 3 years old through high school; adult inquiry class for those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith; sacramental preparation for baptism, for reception of Holy Communion and confirmation; Bible study and thematic study of the Catholic faith; monthly family movie nights and faith sharing.

Protestant: weekly Sunday School; weekly Bible studies for men and women; Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed for youth; Sabbath School; Mothers of Pre-School children; Club Beyond for junior and senior high students.

We are more than just muscle and brain.

We have a spiritual component which needs and deserves to be appreciated, developed and exercised.

Your chaplains, staff and volunteers are ready to assist and to grow with you on your religious journey in Iwakuni.

Contact the station Chaplains' Office at 253-3371 for more information, to volunteer or to sign up for the various programs.

Remove home death traps, check house

SUBMITTED BY
STATION SAFETY

Slips, Trips, and Falls Prevention:

Every year slips, trips and falls are the leading causes of unintentional home injury or death. Falls account for an average of 5.1 million injuries and nearly six thousand deaths each year. Walk through your home to identify and remedy potential fall hazards.

■ Keep the floor clear. Reduce clutter and keep telephone and electrical cords out of walkways.

■ Keep floors clean. Wipe up grease, water and other liquids immediately.

■ To reduce the chance of slipping or tripping, secure area rugs with a piece of foam carpet backing, double-sided tape or a rubber pad.

■ Keep stairs clear of clutter.

■ Make sure living areas and especially stairways are well lit.

■ Use a sturdy step stool with handrails when trying to reach high places.

Poison Prevention:

You can find poisons inside and outside of your home. Poisons can be things you eat, breathe, touch or get in your eyes. Read and follow the manufacturer's directions to use poisons safely. Keep poisonous items out of children's reach.

Children are curious and like to pretend to be adults. Find the poisons inside and outside your home. Keep all poisons locked away from children so they won't try to use them.

Electrical extension cords:

■ Never run an extension cord under a rug.

■ Do not consider extension cords part of your home's electrical system; use them only for temporary situations.

■ A frayed or cracked cord could cause a shock or fire. Replace old and damaged extension cords.

■ Make sure the cords you buy are approved by an independent testing laboratory.

■ Never overload an extension cord; it could cause

a fire.

■ Check the rating labels on the cords and the appliance. If necessary, upgrade to a higher rated cord.

Child safety:

About 2.5 million children are injured or killed by hazards in the home each year. The good news is many of these incidents can be prevented by using simple child safety devices.

■ Use safety latches and locks for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms and other areas to help prevent poisonings and other injuries. These devices help prevent children from gaining access to medicines and household cleaners, as well as knives and other sharp objects.

■ Use safety gates to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children away from dangerous areas. Look for gates that children cannot dislodge easily, but that adults can open and close without difficulty. For the top of stairs, gates that screw to the wall are more secure than "pressure gates."

■ Use door knob covers and door locks to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers.

■ Using anti-scald devices for faucets and showers can help prevent burns. Young children have thin skin and can burn easily.

■ Turn pot handles toward the back of the cooking range to prevent small children from reaching and pulling down hot pans.

■ Use window guards and safety netting to help prevent falls from windows.

■ Use corner and edge bumpers to help prevent injuries from falls against sharp edges of furniture and fireplaces.

■ Use outlet covers and outlet plates to help prevent electrocution.

■ Use door stops and door holders to help prevent injuries to fingers and hands. Door stops and door holders on doors and door hinges can help prevent small fingers and hands from being pinched or crushed in doors and door hinges.

New chef of quarter crowned

CHEF FROM PAGE 1

Cpl. Earl Lee, representing the Food Service Division Office. "If I'm not going to eat it, I'm not going to cook it."

While some chefs rolled out pie crusts for their desserts, others diced vegetables for a pasta or added just enough spice to make the perfect soup.

All contestants were confident their product was going to be the best.

"There's no reason that I can't win," said Flores. "I'm taking a risk by making something I've never made before, though."

While some were out to win the title, others were there to show their talent and do their best.

"I'm not hoping to win; I just want to do well," said Lance Cpl. Jon-Luke Dean McAdams, representing the Northside Mess Hall.

Bass yelled, "Five minutes," to keep the contestants on their toes as the competition came down to the wire. Competitors raced to add the finishing touches to their entrées, plated their desserts and added just enough garnish to their display.

After each of the Marine's buffets were set up, eight judges from around the station sampled the array of food offered by the chefs.

Judges scored the contestants on menu

display, presentation and taste.

The anxious Marines stood behind their tables, waiting for the results.

"I'm just really nervous about what everyone's going to think about my product compared to everyone else's," said Flores

"because I'm up against some of the best cooks here."

With first, second and third place coming within five points of each other, Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse announced Flores' Italian-themed meal had taken the competition. "I'm speechless," said Flores. "I'm glad I won. I did my best."

Flores will receive a certificate of commendation and will go on to compete in Okinawa for a chance to win the Chef of the Quarter Marine Corps Bases Japan title.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Lance Cpl. Jose Flores prepares an Italian pasta for the Chef of the Quarter Board at the Southside Mess Hall here August 20. Flores took home first place, allowing him to compete for Chef of the Quarter Marine Corps Bases Japan.

New sgt. maj. takes MALS-12 reigns



Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle (left), Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 commanding officer, passes off the noncommissioned officer sword to Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson, oncoming MALS-12 sergeant major, in a relief-and-appointment ceremony on the parade deck in front of Building 1 here Aug. 20. Benson succeeded Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson.

MARAUDER FROM PAGE 1

major, 9th Marine Corps Recruiting District, at Fort Snelling, Minn., enlisted in the Marine Corps September 1982 under the delayed entry program.

During his 27 years of service, Benson has filled a multitude of billets and held many titles, including first sergeant for Inspector-Instructor Staff and Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division, in

Twin Cities, Minn., and as a quality assurance officer while in the Persian Gulf aboard USS Curtiss (T-AVB 4), an aviation logistics support ship.

He also served as quality assurance chief while assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39 with the Quality Assurance Division in Camp Pendleton, Calif., and as avionics work center supervisor of Work Centers 620, 640 and 990 with Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element in

Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Benson also participated in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Benson said he looks forward to being the MALS-12 sergeant major and serving his Marines and their families.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Financial Fitness

Bonnie Lewis

IWAKUNI APPROACH FINANCIAL COLUMNIST

Talk with your children about credit cards before it's too late

When someone references "the talk" you should have with your children, credit cards may not be what comes to mind. However, with the economic situation that the U.S. is in now, it is the perfect time to have this discussion with your children.

A recent Sallie May survey showed that the average college student graduates with \$4,700 in credit card debt, which is a 62 percent increase over the 2004 figure of \$2,900.

Another shocking statistic is 84 percent of all college students have a credit card and the average number of cards they possess is 4.6.

While the average interest rate on consumer credit cards is 14.94 percent, college students are likely to have an even higher interest rate because of their age and lack of credit history.

Why, you may ask, are credit card companies giving cards to college students who, for the most part, don't even have a job?

There are several reasons, one is that they think good old mom and dad will pay the bill, another is credit card companies make the bulk of their money in fees, so who is more likely to be late on a credit card payment and only make the minimum payment when they do pay? You guessed it, college students.

Now for some good news, there is new legislation that has just been passed that will make it much more difficult for someone under the age of 21 to obtain a credit card.

It is called the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009. It will go into affect February 2010.

It was created to protect consumers against excessive and obscure fees, and interest rates. Many feel this legislation will cause the credit card companies to increase their interest rates before February 2010.

So if you have a credit card, look at your interest rate: what type of interest are you being charged?

If you have had the card for a year, you can ask for the card issuer to lower your interest rate once a year.

You need to have made your payments on time and have proven you are responsible with your credit. Some people think that the card issuers will offer them the lowest rate if they are eligible, but why would they if you are willing to pay more?

Be an informed consumer, check your interest rates, and if they will not bring down the rate for you, compare interest rates and fees with other military banking organizations.

Credit cards are not a bad thing. They can increase your credit score if used responsibly. However, if you decide to give your college student a credit card for "necessities," make sure there is a clear understanding of what a necessity actually is. Have "the talk;" it could save you a lot of headaches down the road.

For more information or to ask any questions, contact your Personal Finance Manager Bonnie Lewis at 253-6250.

Sitting down with M.C. Perry's new principal

10 questions with him, his future plans for high school

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

As students prepare for the 2009 to 2010 school year starting Aug. 31, Matthew C. Perry High School here opens its doors to a new principal with approximately 13 years of experience in childhood education.

Morgan Nugent was chosen as the new Matthew C. Perry High School principal from among nearly 480 external applicants and an unknown number of internal applicants applying for school administrative positions within the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific system.

During his 13 years in childhood education, Nugent has been principal at other schools, been assistant principal while serving as an athletic director, coached several youth sports, and had successful experiences while working with at-risk youth in alternative schools.

Nugent agreed to sit down with the Iwakuni Approach and answer a few questions about his experience and plans for the school.

Before you were a principal, what approach did you take when you were a teacher in the classroom?

I was never a teacher who just simply told kids what they needed to know. I don't believe in a situation where you just tell a child something and expect them to remember it, because they're going to forget it very quickly unless they grab a hold of it, dig into it, find the truth for themselves. Our (job) as teachers is to point them in the right direction and help kids take ownership of their own learning. Otherwise 'sit and get' is ineffective.

What do you see as your main responsibility as the new principal of Matthew C. Perry High School?

My main responsibility is seeing the kids succeed. We've got to pull everybody onboard. That's my job; make sure every kid is being reached.

What approach will you take in leading the school?

I think a lot of people will find that I'll be very involved. I'll be in the classrooms a lot. I want to know what the kids are learning and why it's relevant to them. We are surrounded by some exceptional teachers who have a lot of experience and who are experts in their own areas. If you get a chance to start sharing that knowledge back and forth with each other, you can really start

seeing things take off. The more things we can get connected to where cross-curricular learning is taking place, the more solid it becomes.

What do you think about this school compared to others you have worked at?

I think the biggest thing from the public school to here is probably going to be parent involvement. I see a lot more parents here with their kids who are already communicating with teachers. All in all, I think the parent support here is going to far surpass what we have had in the public schools.

Are there any disciplinary or specific policies, such as off-campus lunch, you plan to change?

We'll continue doing exactly what we've done in the past. If something has to get changed, we'll pull in all the parties, talk about it and go from there. I've never been afraid to make changes if the changes are necessary. I don't like making changes for the sake of making changes either.

What can students expect to see from you as the new principal?

Well, they'll see me in their classrooms every day. I'll be out and about. I'll eat lunch in the lunchroom. In the past I've sat down at the lunch table and asked kids, "What's going on?" No one knows better what's going on at the school than the kids. Too often what I think needs to be improved on, what teachers think needs to be improved on and parents, isn't sometimes what the kids see. They can make us go to that next level. We've got to consider who we are working with.

What words do you have for the students coming here this year?

We're excited about having them come back to school. They'll find that they'll have someone that will push them extremely hard this year. We're going to push them academically, athletically and within the fine arts program. I expect success.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
Morgan Nugent, new Matthew C. Perry High School principal, speaks to teachers during teacher orientation at M.C. Perry High School here Aug. 25. Nugent was chosen as new principal from among nearly 480 external applicants and an unknown number of internal applicants.

Never do something mediocre. If you're going to put your heart into it, then put your heart into it. You better strive to be the best. Otherwise, you're just wasting your time and other people's time.

What words do you have for the teachers?

Japan has found a way to pull all of its resources from all these scattered islands, using their infrastructure. Everything from the fairies, shin, to highways; they found a way to connect and bring all their different strengths and weaknesses together. They found a way to flourish for centuries upon centuries. That's what we are going to be taking a look at here with the teachers. We're going to be taking a look at seeing each other's strengths and identifying those areas that we can share. We need to have that open door policy that invites people to come on in and take a

look at what we're doing. Share our best practices and not be an island amongst ourselves.

Moving on to the parents, what's the one thing you think they should know about you?

The most important thing parents should know about myself is I am an active listener. I do not just want to hear complaints; I want to hear solutions. Educators are thieves. We steal good ideas and make them our own. I don't want them to sit in their town homes, in their towers or their apartments. We want the parents to be involved.

Do you have anything to add, something you might want to say to the community?

I'm just excited to be the principal here, and feel free to stop by and introduce yourself. You'll find that I'm a very personable administrator.

Learn Japanese, be more confident out in town



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
Students take additional notes on proper diction and pronunciation during the Japanese Survival Class in the Japanese American Society's Office here Aug. 20. Besides having language classes, the Japanese American Society conducts Japanese cooking classes and organizes group trips and parties to give Americans and Japanese an opportunity to socialize with each other.

Students take notes on pronouncing family names during the Japanese Survival Class in the Japanese American Society's Office here Aug. 20. The class's curriculum focuses on simple and practical Japanese that can be used in common situations, such as ordering at restaurants and communicating with taxi drivers.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
Yoko Mikami, the class instructor, shows her students a hand gesture they can use to politely deny a wrong order at a restaurant during the Japanese Survival Class in the Japanese American Society's office here Aug. 20. To maintain a relaxed atmosphere, Mikami sits around the table with her students and allows them to talk and ask questions freely making it less like a class.

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In a brightly lit room a group of women gather around a small table. Their eyes eagerly hover across the papers in front of them, they seem to be studying hard. By the relaxed looks on their faces one can assume this is not Trigonometry 101 and it is certainly not English considering half of what these women are saying is Japanese. But they are American.

Every Thursday in August the Japanese American Society has held a Survival Japanese Class.

The class's curriculum focuses on simple and practical Japanese that can be used in common situations, such as ordering at restaurants and communicating with taxi drivers.

Cindy Jeffords began taking the class so she could feel more comfortable communicating when she goes out in town.

"I wanted to learn more about the language," said Jeffords. "Not knowing how to communicate with the people around you can be unnerving. By taking this class I feel more confident when I go out and explore."

Jeffords' newfound confidence is exactly what Yoko Mikami, the class instructor, likes to hear.

"This class is the students' first step in learning Japanese and in turn their first step into Japan," said Mikami. "It excites me to help my students get out there and begin making good memories."

The first day of the class the students learned how to say family titles, order food and count.

"What we learned today is a great example of why I like taking this class," said Jeffords, who said she is also taking a separate, more rigorous and structured class in the evenings.

To maintain the relaxed atmosphere, Mikami sits around the table with her students and allows them to talk and ask questions freely, making it less like a class and more like a roundtable discussion.

Mikami thinks the relaxed environment helps some people learn more in less time. Mikami feels the more her students learn the more opportunities will be provided to them.

"The station is like a small world, and sometimes people who are living here forget that there is a whole culture out there," said Mikami. "If an American can learn just a few words perfectly they can begin to open doors. My purpose here is to teach them words that will help them make friends. By making friends they will begin to experience our society and culture in a whole new way."

The Japanese Survival Class is only one of many opportunities the Japanese American Society provides.

Besides having language classes, the Japanese American Society conducts cooking classes and organizes group trips and parties to give Americans and Japanese an opportunity to socialize with each other.

Those interested in taking Japanese language classes or joining the Japanese American Society can call 253-4744 or stop by their office in Building 261, located next to the Furniture Annex and behind Building 1.

ISLAND HOP



Iwakuni Marines pose for a picture with World War II veterans while visiting Guadalcanal Aug. 6 during their island-hop trip. The Iwakuni Marines traveled to 10 islands across the Pacific to commemorate the 67th anniversary of Guadalcanal. PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE



Marines stop off at Truk Atoll in the C-12 they used throughout the entire 11-day trip. The Marines covered 10,409 miles using 6,500 gallons of fuel in 11 days during their trip. PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE

Marines travel to WWII sites in South Pacific

COMPILED BY IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

10,409 miles, 6,500 gallons, 11 days, 10 islands and nine people. Add up the numbers and it equals a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Marines here embarked on the 11-day expedition Aug. 3 to various locations across the Pacific to commemorate the Marine Corps 67th anniversary of World War II's Guadalcanal campaign.

The nine Marines were able to experience to witness and experience firsthand what was left of seven historic battle sites, including Saipan, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, Guam and Iwo Jima.

"It was a great opportunity to do this," said Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardese, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer here.

Ardese along with Capt. Raymond J. Scott, H&HS Marine Transport Squadron Detachment officer in charge and aircraft safety officer, served as crew for the C-12 they flew from island to island.

"The most moving experience of the trip was Guadalcanal," said Ardese. "It's the first amphibious landing."

The Marines wore their dress blue deltas for the 67th anniversary ceremony at Guadalcanal. For the rest of the trip they were in regular civilian attire for comfortable hiking.

"There was tons of hiking. It was hot, humid and nasty, and everybody did really well," said Ardese.

Along with every hike was a professional military education class on the island and what took place.

"We talked about the land and the historical value of each site," said Sgt. Adam Kruse, one of three sergeants who won a seat on the 11-day trip.

Ardese held a brutal multi-day Bring Out Your Champions

Challenge for the H&HS Marines to earn a seat.

"My criteria I laid out to those Marines was, they had to be an outstanding Marine, a career Marine, meaning at least reenlisted one time, and had to be physically fit to make all PME," said Ardese.

Ardese also said he would like for the island-hopping trip to become an annual event. However, his tenure will be up next year, and the decision will be up to the next commanding officer.

"We don't own our uniforms," said Sgt. Maj. Ronald Halcovich, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225 sergeant major. "The uniforms we wear are owned by the Marines that came before us."

Halcovich has served in the Marine Corps for 23 years and has never had an opportunity as unique as this one.

"This trip was like returning to your family's homeland," said Halcovich. "Every island we went to I couldn't help but think about all the Marines that fought and lost their lives on those beaches. I mean, come on, when you think about Guam, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Saipan, Peleliu and Guadalcanal you can't help but imagine what it must have been like to storm those beaches. Let me just say I was fortunate enough to go on this trip, but for all the Marines that didn't go, I still encourage them to read and learn about their Marines Corps history so that those Marines that sacrificed so much in the past can live forever in the future."

The tours, hikes and jet-setting are over, but the memory of the trip will live on.

The Marines now have their own stories to share, but more importantly they have those of others.

Their new knowledge of the past can help today's Marines better understand what it means to proudly claim the title of United States Marine.



Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardese, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, helps fold an American flag over the ruins of a World War II tank in Saipan Aug. 4 during their island hop trip. PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE



Marine Capt. Raymond J. Scott, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marine Transport Squadron Detachment officer in charge and aircraft safety officer, looks on with other Marines at the remnants of a battle on Tawara Aug. 7 as part of their island-hop trip. Three Marines won seats aboard the C-12 that carried them to the islands in a competition set forth by Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardese, H&HS commanding officer. PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE



An Iwakuni-based Marine photographs a memorial constructed on Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima, Aug 13 during their island hop trip. Iwakuni Marines embarked on an 11-day expedition Aug. 3 to various locations across the Pacific to commemorate the Marine Corps 67th anniversary of World War II's Guadalcanal Campaign. PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE



Iwakuni Marines photograph a coastal artillery gun on Tarawa Aug. 8 during their island-hop trip. The nine Marines were afforded the chance of a lifetime experience to witness firsthand what was left of seven historic battle sites including Saipan, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, Guam and Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima. PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

2/8 Marines engage in six-hour firefight with Taliban



GARMSIR DISTRICT, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Wesley Nokes, a saw gunner with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, directs fire to the enemy compound across a large, muddy field just after Taliban insurgents ambushed the Marines' patrol here Aug. 13, 2009. The firefight lasted six hours and was the longest here since July 4.

1ST LT. KURT STAHL
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 3

GARMSIR DISTRICT, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers departed their outpost on a combat patrol Aug. 13 that turned into the largest firefight here since July 4, 2009.

The Marines of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, waged an intense six-hour battle with Taliban insurgents who opened fire on the patrol just after 8 a.m.

After moving only about one mile from their combat outpost, the Marines received a heavy volley of enemy gunfire from multiple directions. Without hesitation, the Marines and ANA returned fire to suppress the enemy positions, began to maneuver on the insurgents and call for fire support.

"We sent out the combat patrol anticipating contact," said Capt. Eric A. Meador from Laurel, Miss., the company commander. "They always try to hit us in that area."

Within minutes, an AH-1W Super Cobra and a UH-1N Huey were on station overhead to help suppress and engage enemy targets. The Cobra fired several five-inch Zuni rockets into one of the compounds from which the patrol was receiving sustained fire.

The friendly forces maneuvered through thick corn fields with slippery mud while enduring temperatures that exceeded 120 degrees in the afternoon. The muggy heat rose from the corn fields as if it were a sauna, and the Marines sunk into the mud with each step making it feel like weights were attached to their ankles.

"I didn't think it was possible to move so fast through mud like that," said Lance Cpl. Timothy Daughtry, a squad automatic weapon gunner.

In addition to those already challenging

conditions, each Marine carried no less than a 60-pound combat load to include body armor, ammunition and water at a minimum. Despite the potential distractions offered by these extreme conditions while under fire, the Marines executed sound judgment calls and made rational decisions without hesitation.

"At the squad and platoon level, the Marines are out there every day and do a phenomenal job," said Meador. "They come back beat and tired, but they are always ready to do it again the next day."

During the engagement, the squad leaders were encouraging and directing their Marines to ensure they were doing everything they could to stay effective and in the fight. No matter how tired they became as time wore on, the voice of experience could be heard across the battlefield.

"Push forward. Keep your dispersion," called out Sgt. Jonathon Delgado, a squad leader from Kissimmee, Fla., as his Marines pressed through the corn field to maneuver on one of the compounds hiding the enemy.

By 1 p.m. — five hours into the engagement — many of the Marines had run out of water. So, water and ammunition redistribution began from those who still had a reserve and continued throughout the remainder of the day as needed.

During the firefight, the Marines were successful in calling in several types of precision ordnance on the insurgent fighting positions, which included rockets fired by the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems based at Camp

Dwyer 15 miles away; 81mm and 60mm mortars; and a 500-pound bomb from a U.S. Air Force B-1 bomber.

"We caught them by surprise with our indirect fire assets and inflicted heavier casualties than in the past," said 1st Lt. Kyle Kurtz from Greensboro, N.C., the company's executive officer.

The Marines and ANA eventually maneuvered up to and cleared the insurgent positions initially used to launch the ambush. One moment they were fighting in open fields, and the next they were clearing rooms the insurgents had used as fighting positions — two very different and challenging combat techniques. One squad, expecting to encounter some resistance, went to clear the western compound where the patrol had initially taken heavy fire. As they entered the compound, the only thing they found were brass casings and links from the enemy's machine guns.

"It was tense going through the compound," Daughtry commented. "You never know exactly what is coming around the corner."

Between the sprints across the corn fields under fire to clearing compounds, the Marines felt lucky to have made it through the day unscathed.

"I definitely think I have had an angel watching out for me at times," said Lance Cpl. Josh Vance, a team leader from Raleigh, N.C.

In past firefights here, insurgents have kept their distance when engaging the Marines, but things were different during this battle.

"This was the first time in a while that we were able to close with the enemy so effectively," Kurtz said. "We were within 50-75 meters — right on top of them."

The platoon-sized element that took the initial contact was only one surprise Company E had for the insurgents this day. When they started to run, a second platoon was sent out to meet them.

The Taliban militants displaced to another location they had used to launch attacks from in the past — a large wall. During the follow-on fight, the Marines were able to cut off the insurgents' escape route and deny them the ability to use the wall for effective future attacks.

"It was a very successful day for us," said Kurtz.



GARMSIR DISTRICT, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — 1st Lt. Josh Faucett (right), a joint terminal attack controller with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, reaches for his radio to call for fire support after Taliban insurgents ambushed their patrol Aug. 13. The fight lasted six hours and was the longest here since July 4.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sports physicals

If your child will need a sports physical for next school year please call 253-3445 to schedule an appointment. The clinic cannot guarantee your child's sports physical will be completed by the time his/her sport begins if appointments are not made until after the school year begins.

Iwakuni Teens

Join us for Club Beyond 6:30 - 8 p.m. every Tuesday in Yujo Hall, between the station chapel and thrift store, starting Sept 8. Enjoy games, music, food and fun plus a short Bible lesson. Club Beyond, where friends, fun and faith connect. For more information, call the chapel at 253-3371 or call John at 080-4177-2060.

Birthday Break

The birthday break is an ongoing promotion held every Friday at 9:15 a.m. on Power 1575 radio. The promotion is open to anyone with a birthday. Just visit www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake, fill out the form and let Power 1575 and MCCS take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on the last Friday of every month their will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in upcoming month.

PMO Lost and Found

Please contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the station. The following are just some of what

has been turned in: Hospitality Solutions International card, Maglight Flashlight 12", black denim key case (6 keys 1 Swiss army knife), watches, jewelry, GBA game, dog tag, cell phones, necklace key chain w/ boys and girls on cloth, wallets, keys, combat life-saver bag, iPods, digital cameras, glasses, flash drives, bicycle helmets, toy airplane, computer hard drives, black bag with breath easy turbo unit, umbrella, sunglasses, A Swiss gear back pack with many contents. Please contact PMO Lost and Found at 253-4929 or email carrie.white@usmc.mil for more information.

Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College Distance Education enrollment

Through a variety of distance learning delivery systems, the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education (CCE) provides Distance Education and Training opportunities for all Marines, government employees, and family members. Our globally accessible programs prepare graduates to perform effectively in service, joint, and multinational environments and in situations ranging from humanitarian assistance to combat. Our online learning management system, MarineNet, provides education to all Marines wherever they are stationed. For more information visit www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce.

Pedodontist visit
Dr. Keith Coe, a board certified civilian Pediatric Dental Specialist, is slated to visit the station here and treat children from September 14 to the 24. Oral Sedation will be available if needed. To schedule an appointment for your child call Dental at 253-3331

To submit advertisement request, please send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please include a contact name, at least one phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, you may submit in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216.

STATION CURFEW HOURS IN EFFECT

School starts on Aug. 31 and the Provost Marshal's Office will enforce the curfew. Residents under 18 years old are required to be indoors from 10 p.m. — 5 a.m. on school nights (Sunday — Thursday) and 12 a.m. — 5 a.m. on weekends (Friday — Saturday), holidays, and summer vacations.

For any questions regarding curfew please call the Crime Prevention Section at 253-5105.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, August 28, 2009

7 p.m. I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13)

Premiere

10 p.m. G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG-13)

Saturday, August 29, 2009

1 p.m. Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)
4 p.m. I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13)

7 p.m. Away We Go (R)

Premiere

10 p.m. Year One (PG-13)

Sunday, August 30, 2009

1 p.m. My Sister's Keeper (PG-13)
4 p.m. G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG-13)

7 p.m. Away We Go (R)

Monday, August 24, 2009

7 p.m. G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG-13)

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

7 p.m. Public Enemies (R)
Last Showing

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

7 p.m. Iron Jawed Angels (NR)
Free Admission

Thursday, August 27, 2009

7 p.m. Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (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.

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1998 Mazda RX-7

The car runs and looks great with small easy to fix body defects. Has only 44,000k with too many modifications to list. Asking \$5,000 OBO. Price includes extras along with car. For more information call (work) 253-3310 or (cell) 080-3522-1547.

Miscellaneous

Two Dahon Folding Bikes

Both in excellent condition. Perfect for riding the trains and exploring.
2007 Jetstream XP (black) – \$450
2008 Mu P8 (white) – \$400
Have both – \$775
For more information, call 080-3367-3706 or 253-2209

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of mushroom soup, Creole soup, steak ranchero, sweet and sour pork, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, succotash, carrots, dinner rolls, brown gravy, potato salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, congo bars, marble cake double layer, butter cream frosting, blueberry crunch.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Cream of potato soup, chicken noodle soup, Cajun meatloaf, baked salmon fillet, potatoes au gratin, steamed rice, french fried cauliflower, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, spice cake, butter cream frosting, lemon meringue pie.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Cream of broccoli soup, vegetable soup, turkey pot pie, over roast, noddles Jefferson, steamed rice, brussel sprouts, broccoli combo, biscuits, brown gravy, potato salad, country style tomato salad, peanut butter cookies, double layer devil's food cake, butter cream frosting, cheese cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Cream of chicken soup, minestrone soup, Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, honey glazed rock cornish hen, parsley buttered potatoes, buttered pasta, green beans Southern style, vegetable stir fry, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, german tomato salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, stawberry shortcake, whipped topping, vanilla creamed pie.
Specialty Bar: Deli Sandwich

Friday

Tortilla soup, minestrone soup, beef fajitas, chicken fajitas, chili con carne, fish tacos, refried beans, beef burritos, mexican corn, salsa, jalapeno corn bread, potato salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, banana bread, shortbread cookies, Dutch apple pie.
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

Wanted: Children's Toys

I'm looking for any Fisher Price "Imaginext" pieces for my son's sets. Please contact Mario & Mary Beth at 080-4073-3138.

Garfield: The Movie DVD

Selling brand new, sealed "Garfield" DVD. Not available at MCX. Asking \$5. For more information call 080-4073-3138.

Huge Box of Scrapbooking Tools

Box includes paper, stamps, die cuts, ink, stickers, embossing powder, stencils, organizer, and leather scrapbook. Over \$3000 worth of product. Asking \$500. For more information call Leah at 253-2866 or 080-3520-9615.

Bike Racks

Selling two brand new "Japanese style" bike racks to mount a basket or child's seat on the back of your bike. Does not fit "American style" bikes. Racks have never been used. \$20 for both. For more information, call 080-4073-3138.

House for Rent in Town

Nice three bedroom house for rent. Located in a great neighborhood in town right next

to the back gate. Move in date, Oct 1. Asking \$550 a month. For more information call 760-685-3776.

Jobs

Chapel Positions Available

Now Hiring at MCAS Chapel
Protestant Pianist
Protestant Organist
Christian Non-denominational Music Director
Catholic Organist
Catholic Choir Director
For more information please call the Logistical Contract office at 253-4233.

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities

Every day sailors, Marines and their families come to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in emergencies. Be the friendly person who lets them know they've come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

MOPS Volunteer Opportunity

We need loving volunteers to work with children for Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS). Volunteers needed for the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Meeting for Moppet Volunteers Sept. 1st at 12:30 p.m. in Yujo Hall. If interested in volunteering with children please call 253-2626 or 253-2427.

BHC opens new children's play area



HMC Edwin Guingab, the senior enlisted leader of the Robert M. Casey Medical Clinic, helps put together a puzzle after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new children's waiting area at the dental clinic here Aug. 21. Along with the play area, the American Red Cross will also be providing over 100 laminated books and children friendly magazines for the children and their families to read.



"Blast from the Past"

A live 2-hour radio show featuring the best of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Every Monday, 7 - 9 p.m. on power 1575.

4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

4 Bangers +1 setter Jordan Kroell spikes the ball during the 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament held at IronWorks Gym here Saturday. Kroell was voted most valuable player by his teammates after winning the final game of a best of three games series against Team Hope. The 4 Bangers +1 won the tournament posting a 7-1 record.

4 Bangers +1 stuff competition

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

From the opening serve to the final point, it was an all 4 Bangers +1 championship game to end the 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament here at IronWorks Gym Saturday.

Team Hope pulled off a hard-earned finish in the first of a best of three championship series, beating the 4 Bangers +1 21-18, but they could not rally enough to maintain their momentum throughout the next two, losing 21-19 and 15-10.

The 4 Bangers +1, with a tournament record of 7-1, entered Saturday's game knowing they were the number one seed and had the edge on Team Hope.

"The competition got tougher throughout the tournament, but when heat and fatigue started to kick in we definitely had to step up our

game," said 4 Bangers +1 coach Jordan Kroell.

The 4 Bangers +1 like most teams had at least five players, so it gave them a chance to substitute and keep their players as fresh as possible to prevent injuries.

With 11 teams competing for the championship it was a good idea to stay loose and fresh for any upcoming challenge.

"It was the most teams we have had for a volleyball tournament," said Andrew Porche, athletic coordinator Marine Corps Community Services.

The gym got pretty hot as teams watched their competition from the bleachers playing one another and studying their techniques to gain any possible advantage once they faced off.

By the end of the first half of the competition, it was clear that the 4 Bangers +1 had found their rhythm and

were not going down without a good fight.

They ended the first half of competition without a loss and took command of the winners bracket as they continued to build momentum off every ace, stuff, and kill.

"The 4 Bangers +1 did really well. We stuck to our game plan and it worked," said Kroell.

Team Hope did improve from the last tournament they competed in where they finished fourth; however it was the 4 Bangers +1 who ultimately won the championship and will hold the title until next time.

"We are looking forward to another successful volleyball tournament to take place in October," said Porche.

Additional information about upcoming competitions can be directed to the Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit division at 253-5225.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Ball Hogs players Sandy Domingo (left) and Nina Nuttall (right) check the standings in-between games during the 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament held at IronWorks Gym here Saturday.

Iwakuni catches silver medal in Oki



PHOTO BY MATT ORR, USED WITH PERMISSION FROM STARS AND STRIPES. © 2009 STARS AND STRIPES.

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan — Doc Arbini of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, left, is tagged out wide of home plate by catcher Ken Kohler of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, during Friday's winner's bracket final in the 2009 Far East Regional Softball Tournament at Field 1, Gunners Fitness Center Softball Complex, Camp Foster, Okinawa. Wing beat Iwakuni 12-5 and again 5-3 in Friday evening's championship game.

Station softball team takes on all comers in Far East Regional Softball Tournament

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

After months of practice and eliminations, a team of local Marines traveled to Okinawa to compete in the annual Far East Regional Softball Tournament at Camp Foster, Okinawa.

On the final day of the competition, Team Iwakuni made it to the winner's bracket, going head-to-head with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Micheal Wilder, the Head coach of Team Iwakuni called the final game a David and

Goliath type experience.

Before they played 1st MAW, Team Iwakuni started the week off playing a series of round-robin games.

"The round robin games give all teams a chance to play each other at least one time before entering the double elimination tournament for the championship," said Wilder.

Team Iwakuni's record for the round robin games was 4-1. The only team to beat Team Iwakuni was 1st MAW.

In the double elimination tournament, Team Iwakuni was knocked to the losers bracket by 1st MAW.

In the championship game Iwakuni took a 1-0 lead off a Jeremy Press two-out RBI single.

1st MAW answered back with a Bob Willard homer followed by a Chris Wine single, which brought in another run. Tournament MVP Joshua O'Brien hit a sacrifice fly to end the fifth putting 1st MAW on top of Team Iwakuni 5-1.

Then came what Wilder called the game's turning point. With runners on first and second, and one out in the sixth, Aaron Marsh singled in a run, but a relay throw from O'Brien to shortstop Tim Dawsey to catcher Meaty Hinkhouse nailed Albsmeyer at home.

Wilder argued with the umpires that Albsmeyer slid under the tag but to no avail. "He was safe. That could have tied it for us," Wilder said of the aborted rally. "That was

the backbreaker for us."

Iwakuni again threatened in the seventh, putting runners at first and third with one out, but pinch-hitter Keith Applegate struck out on a pitch he felt was deep and outside. Justin Rodriguez then singled in a run, 5-3, but that was as close as Iwakuni got.

Team Iwakuni lost the final game against 1st MAW but that does not mean they came home empty handed.

According to Wilder this championship is the first time in 15 years that a softball team from here has brought back a placement trophy.

Wilder himself received the All-Tournament Coach Award for being the most outstanding coach of the tournament. This award is rarely given to a coach from the runner-up team. It is almost always presented to the winning coach.

"It was good to attend this tournament because it put Iwakuni back on the map as a contender for softball," said Wilder. "It shows the rest of the bases in the Far East that we are here to compete at the highest level. This was also a reward for those softball players (who) worked hard all year to showcase their talent. What better places to showcase that talent than at the biggest tournament of the year."

Portions of this article excerpted from Dave Ornauer's "Vannoy helps Wing defend softball title," published in Stars and Stripes Pacific edition Aug. 16.



LANCE CPL. DENGRIER M. BAEZ

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan — Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's first baseman Chad E. Roach connects a shot to the outfield in the team's first game during the first round of the Far East Regional Softball Tournament 2009 here Aug. 10.