

GAS, GAS, GAS

Marines prepare for disaster | p. 4

FEATURE

ONCE UPON A TIME

Storytime at library | p. 5

FEATURE

CLASSIC

Service members compete for football title | p. 12

SPORTS

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 35, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

PICTURE STORY

'Never forgotten'



LANCE CPL CHRIS KUTLESA

Service members and civilians sing "America the Beautiful" at the 9/11 Remembrance Service held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Sept. 11. Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle, the commanding officer of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here, gave a speech at the service. After Gackle's speech, a bell was rung four times to signify the four planes that were hijacked Sept. 11, 2001. Read the full story on pages 6&7.

Local 6th grader proves she's Good Samaritan

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Have you ever received a little extra change from the market and thought "it's my lucky day"?

Well, doing the right thing can really pay off.

Jayda Kroell, a sixth grader at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School, received a check for \$100 at the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 11.

Mindy Garner nominated her for the Good Samaritan/ Neighbor Program, which was designed to encourage children to improve their community.

On May 24, Jayda bought a few items from the southside Marine Mart. She paid for the items but was given too much change. She walked away, and later realized that she was given over six dollars too much. Jayda returned to the register to inform the cashier of her mistake.

The cashier approached Garner with the situation trying to find the student to thank her.

"She was very appreciative and impressed with this young lady," said

SEE **SAMARITAN** ON PAGE 3

GRAND ENTRANCE: Station members work together to position new radar



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

A small convoy of lowboy trailers carries the largest parts of a newly acquired Airport Surveillance Radar 11 Digital Airport Surveillance Radar from the southside port area to the northside DASR site here Tuesday. The transport of the equipment took the combined efforts of several sections aboard station.

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sections from around the station coordinated their efforts to safely transport the largest pieces of a newly acquired Airport Surveillance Radar 11 Digital Airport Surveillance Radar from the station southside port area to the northside DASR site here Tuesday.

The Provost Marshal's Office, Logistics, Operations, Facilities and Japanese contractors worked together to off-load the ASR-11 DASR at the port, provide traffic control, lift utility power lines and open perimeter fence lines to safely deliver the radar to its destination.

"The main thing (working together to transport the radar says) is that we can work well

as a team. We can get different entities on the base to work together for the main mission of the base, which is to maintain the airfield and the airspace," said Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Buskey, Ground Electronic Maintenance Division radar maintenance chief.

The radar equipment, some pieces weighing up to 100,000 pounds and too large to deliver via the streets of Japan, was delivered to the station port by cargo boat.

Members of PMO and logistics were on-hand at the port with Japanese contractors to oversee the off-loading of the radar shelter, generator shelter and antenna.

Within three hours, the pieces

SEE **RADAR** ON PAGE 3

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Learning to fly on instruments'

LT. ROBERT E. MILLS
STATION CHAPLAIN

Last week, I talked about life lessons that I learned while I was taking flight instruction for my civilian pilot's license. After I soloed (flew the airplane alone), I had to do a series of longer flights called cross-countries. These are not literally across the country, but generally are flights where you are actually going somewhere other than your local home airport. In my case, I did my first cross country flights in upstate New York.

The day after successfully flying the route with my instructor, I took off all alone for a destination over 50 miles away from home. Once I leveled off at my cruise altitude of 5,500 feet and my mighty Cessna 150 gained its cruise airspeed of 90 knots (you Hornet guys stop laughing), I trimmed the airplane and looked around to enjoy the view. It was not that great because the weather was a little hazy. I noticed that I had enough visibility to see the ground for a few miles ahead and to the sides. It was like flying under a bowl or a bubble that moved

along with me as I flew. When I had flown the route before with my instructor, it had been on a totally clear day with great visibility. At first, I was worried that I might be on the wrong course, but sure enough my first visual checkpoint showed up right on time and in the right place. I compared it to the chart in my lap and discovered that my planning was going to turn out all right. Life is like that. There are days when you can't see very far ahead. You just have to trust that your instructor (God) has given you what you need. Just keep forging ahead and look for the landmarks that will help you to know that you are on course.

When I started instrument training after I passed my Private Pilot's License exams, I had to learn a totally different part of flying. Instead of looking outside the airplane to determine where I was by looking at landmarks and comparing them to a paper chart, I learned how to control and navigate the airplane by looking at the instruments on the panel, and by following radio beams in the sky. I had to learn how to trust the instruments and follow their instructions – even

when I didn't feel like it.

One day, early in the training, my instructor took me up and asked me to put on my hood (which restricted my view outside the airplane). Now I could not see anything but the instruments. The instructor put the airplane through several maneuvers while I had my eyes closed. After a few minutes of this, he asked me to tell him which way the airplane was turning, still with my eyes closed. I told him that we were clearly in a right turn because I could feel it. Then he told me to open my eyes and look at the instruments, and I was shocked to see that we were straight and level, even though all my senses were screaming that we were in a right turn.

This exercise taught me a great lesson – trust the instruments, not your feelings! During the turns with my eyes closed, my senses had gotten confused. I had to learn to ignore how I felt and follow the correct procedures.

There's a life lesson here too. Follow what is right, even when you really want to do something else. Too often, what feels good isn't the right thing and can get you into trouble.

Keep flying – and trust your instruments!



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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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History and Heritage



At 6:53 a.m. Sept. 15, 1950, 1,250 Marines for 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, reinforced by tanks and engineers landed on Wolmi-Do Island. This island guarded the seaward approaches to Inchon, Korea. 3/5's landing had been preceded by intense fire from Navy and Marine aircraft from nearby ships while U.S. cruisers added their six and eight-inch shells to the carnage, as well as a number of destroyers and smaller ships. Four hundred of the 2,000 North Korean People's Army garrison of Inchon had been on Wolmi-Do that morning. When the fight was over 3/5 had killed 108 North Korean fighters and taken 136 prisoners. One hundred and fifty other defenders were thought to have been buried in sealed emplacements and caves throughout the island. Seventeen Marines were wounded in the action. Later that evening, the main assault on Inchon began.

Acquisition of new radar tests station's capabilities

RADAR FROM PAGE 1

were off-loaded and transported via lowboy trailers by road through the flight line to the designated northside DASR site.

Buskey said in order to familiarize the participating members of the project with the route, she had them practice before the equipment arrived.

"It's been very time consuming, but it hasn't been extremely difficult," said Buskey.

Many of the members working together to transport the equipment agreed with Buskey.

"It was pretty hectic for a little while, but once things started moving, everyone got into place and everything went very smooth," said Cpl. Jason Willis, GEMD radar technician. "I think that it shows that the station is very capable, because we didn't have any problems getting to and from where we were going. Everyone was where they were supposed to be."

Though the transport of the equipment

was fairly smooth it wasn't without small challenges that needed to be overcome.

The biggest challenge was probably the language barrier in trying to explain to the Japanese contractors where we needed each individual truck to go, but all that was resolved, Willis said.

The new ASR-11 DASR, considered to be the next generation in terminal surveillance radar systems, is an upgrade from analog radars up to 20-years-old and is the first aboard station. Primary surveillance coverage for the radar reaches out to 60 nautical miles with secondary surveillance coverage up to 120 nautical miles.

Another feature of the radar is it can be controlled from multiple locations and is designed for unattended operation using redundant subsystems along with built-in test equipment.

"It's going to be new, more reliable, somewhat less maintenance," said Dan Hill, a Space and Naval Warfare System Center Atlantic project

engineer. "From what we've seen so far, the reliability has been pretty good with these radars."

Though the ASR-11 DASR is considered to offer some of the best advances in radar technology to the station, many aboard the station agree the people who positioned the equipment in place and run it are just as important and capable.

"From my experience so far, with Gunny Buskey and the team here, this has been a unique experience in the sense on how we are having to get the equipment here and all that's going on with the station, and the teamwork all across the board here from S6, GEMD, Motor T, TMO and the Japanese nationals," said Hill. "I mean we just couldn't have done it without these folks in place here."

Pieces of the ASR-11 radar are scheduled to arrive through the end of the month, and the system is slated to be fully operational by December.

Child named Good Samaritan/Neighbor Program award winner

SAMARITAN FROM PAGE 1

Garner.

This was not the girl's first act of kindness. Jayda has received scholastic awards and volunteers regularly in the community.

"As an 11-year-old, she really is already a young adult," said Maj. Giuseppe Stavale, the provost marshal for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

Jayda teared up as she accepted her check from Stavale.

Stavale said that he really wanted to highlight and promote Jayda's incident because of the fact that she did the right thing without looking for any recognition.

During the Good Samaritan Program, station members were encouraged to submit the names of

youth ages 10-17 who reported, prevented or stopped an unsafe or unlawful act.

The program was strictly anonymous and gave the station members a chance to encourage children to be good citizens, rewarding them for doing their part to improve the community.

"We only got one nomination, but we are claiming the program a success," said Stavale.

Next month is Crime Prevention Month. PMO will be giving everyone another chance to nominate children around the station for their good deeds.

Submit all nominations to the Crime Prevention Section during normal working hours. After hours, submit nominations to the PMO Desk Sergeant, Building 608.



Jayda Kroell receives a check for \$100 at the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 11. Jayda was named the Good Samaritan/Neighbor Program award winner for returning over six dollars in change after shopping at the Marine Mart.

FINANCE: Latest updates for My Career Advancement Account

SUBMITTED BY BONNIE LEWIS
PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGER

I just attended the Joint Family Readiness Conference in Chicago, Illinois Sept. 1-4. One of my breakout sessions that I went to was given by Pamela Smith, the MyCAA Military One Source Program Manager. Pamela was very excited about the program and gave us all the latest information to pass along to our spouses.

If you are not familiar with MyCAA, let me just give you the basics. MyCAA (which stands for My Career Advancement Account) was established with congressional authorization set forth in Public Law 110-417. The Department of Defense expanded Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program is providing \$6,000 of Financial Assistance for military spouses who are interested in pursuing degree programs, licenses, certifications and education leading to careers in high growth, high demand portable career fields. The Office of the

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy

(DUSD/MC&FP) is the program sponsor. You can access information concerning MyCAA at Military One Source home page <http://www.militaryonesource.com>. Look at the bottom of their homepage for the MyCAA link.

The program was launched in March and has 70,000 spouse accounts set up, and is growing by 1,000 per day. All this with no formal marketing campaign released yet. What does this tell you? It tells me that military spouses are a resourceful bunch of individuals. When someone tells us we are eligible for \$6,000 toward our education, we pass the word to others that can benefit. That is what I did when I wrote the first article about MyCAA that appeared in the July 2009 Preview, and that is what many of you have been doing by word of mouth, Facebook, etc. Last month Military One Source received 30,000 phone calls concerning MyCAA. Pamela admitted the program has grown much faster than they thought it would, and they are now behind by about two weeks in returning calls.

One of the main problems that is delay-

ing the verification process is that people are calling before they have created their profile and set up their career and training plan. Pamela said the fastest way to be approved now is to go online and create your profile, set up your career and training plan and then send them an e-mail through the MyCAA portal.

She said that they are able to process many more people through e-mail than by calling on the phone since it is a faster process. Once you send the e-mail you will have to log back on to your MyCAA account and check for responses. I would recommend checking each day until you get your verification.

They are targeting 1.2 million spouses and their goal is to make the online portal self-sufficient. She asked that you be patient and do not wait until the last minute to sign up since delays are expected.

Remember, this is \$6,000 in free money for military spouses toward education, licensing and certification; use it wisely and make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete the application process.

MAG-12 Marines suit-up in their best to impress



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

A Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marine in Building 1 here attempts to work on his computer while attired in his mission oriented protective posture gear during a training exercise which involved Marines here and in Kadena Air Base Okinawa, Japan Sep. 10. The exercise gave MAG-12 Marines the opportunity to experience what it's like to do their jobs while attired head to toe in their MOPP gear.

Marines train to survive chemical attack

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marines stationed here and on deployment in support of exercise Ryukyu Warrior in Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, participated in a mission oriented protective posture gear training exercise Sep. 10.

The exercise, which simulated

chemical and biological attacks here and in Kadena, gave MAG-12 Marines here the opportunity to experience what it's like to do their jobs while attired head to toe in their MOPP gear.

"The importance of this training is not only to ensure that every day Marines have the ability to survive in a contaminated environment, but also the ability to operate in a contaminated envi-

ronment," said Cpl. Justin Kriss, MAG-12 headquarters chemical biological radiological nuclear training noncommissioned officer. "If CBRN weapons are ever used, operations won't stop. We still have a job to do even if it's just to pull our assets out and get to a clean area, but until we get to that area, we still have to be able to do our jobs."

As the day's scenario played

out, MAG-12 Marines went through the different levels of MOPP gear which made their job a little more difficult.

Marines started the morning having their MOPP gear within hands-reach and finished the day fully clothed in their gas masks, boots, gloves and suit.

MAG-12 Marines who worked in offices could be seen sitting at their desks struggling in their MOPP suit trying to key words out on their keyboards.

Answering phones while wearing the gas mask and staying cool in the MOPP suit was very difficult, and actually putting it on was a challenge, said Lance Cpl. Jason Garcia, MAG-12 driver for the commanding officer.

"It's good that they have these exercises so we can get familiar with (the MOPP gear)," said Garcia. "Not a lot of people are familiar with how to put it on. It's hot but it's good stuff."

The MAG-12 Marines training here were part of a scenario which placed them as the rear detachment under a chemical and biological attack.

Marines here and Marines forward in Kadena had to coordinate their efforts to provide a good defense against the attacks while continuing to accomplish their daily duties.

Kriss said he believed the scenario provided more realistic circumstances, as an enemy is more likely to attack on multiple fronts rather than concentrate on one specific area, and the fact that the Marines are able to coordinate their efforts said something of their efficiency.

"I think it says that we are right where we need to be," said Kriss. "The fact that we can work independently and in tandem (with the Marines in Kadena) is just a testament to that."

Renovated townhomes declared ready to be lived in

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, and his wife, Candice O'Halloran, along with station members slated to move into the newly renovated townhomes here cut a ribbon in front of one of the renovated homes in the Monzen area here during a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially declaring the residences ready to be lived in Sept. 9. Thirty-two townhouse units were made available for use after undergoing months of renovations. The newly renovated homes have been outfitted with new carpet, ceilings, countertops, tiles, kitchenettes, bathrooms, cabinets and dishwashers. Approximately 66 more station homes have been scheduled to undergo the same renovations.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Story Time: Station children learn to read



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Belinda J. Pugh, supervisory librarian for the station library, reads a book to parents with their children during a Story Time class held in the children's room of the station library here.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Parents and their young children attended Story Time class at the station Library here Sept. 10.

Story Time is offered weekly by the station library to help promote good reading and learning techniques for parents and their children and is held at 10 a.m. every Thursday. It is open to all children age five and younger.

"We try to have a different level of reading for all ages and try to include a nursery rhyme, poem, song, or craft," said Belinda J. Pugh, supervisory librarian.

The amount of children attending the class varies from week to week, but there is no set limit to how many children can attend.

"I never know how many children will come," said Pugh.

"I think it is really important for moms and dads to be as involved with their children as they can."

The class held on Sept. 10 had over 20 children and parents attending.

"Moms and dads are a big influence on their children," said Pugh. "They are the ones that will be with the children from zero to six, which is the time the children will be learning the most."

If time constraints make it difficult to attend the class on Thursdays, parents can always go in and check out any of the books from the children's section for free.

"In the past mothers have come in and asked about what books they can use to get their children ready for reading," said Pugh. "I'll be glad to customize a book selection for anybody that is interested."

Pugh highly recommends reading to your children from birth because it is a progressive learning experience for them.

According to the Early Literacy Initiative, a partnership among the public library association, there are six pre-reading skills your child can start learning from birth to age two.

Narrative Skills- Being able to describe things and events and tell stories. Talking with children develops comprehension skills that will help them understand what they read.

Print Motivation- Being interested in and enjoying books. Children who enjoy being read to will want to learn how to read.

Phonological Awareness- Being able to hear the sounds that make up words helps children sound out written words as they begin to read.

Letter Knowledge- Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters everywhere. Make sharing books something your baby or toddler wants to do often. Children learn best when they are hands-on.

Vocabulary- Knowing the names of things. Research shows children who have larger vocabularies are better readers. Knowing many words helps children recognize written words and understand what they read.

Print Awareness- Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on a page. Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Master Sgt. James O'Gallagher listens with his daughter Abby-Grace to one of the stories read by Belinda J. Pugh, supervisory librarian for the station library, during the Story Time class held in the children's room of the station library.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Parents and children gather around Belinda J. Pugh, supervisory librarian for the station library, as she reads one of many books during the Story Time class held in the children's room of the station library here. Story Time is an hour-long class held in the children's room every Thursday at 10 a.m. It is open to all children age 5 and younger to help promote reading.

understand that print is useful.

"Our youngest readers are our best clientele," said Pugh. "We are teaching them no matter where they are in the world, because they are going to be a lot of places being a military child; there is a local library that can support them."

For more information on the Story Time class or any other classes offered by the station library call 253-3078.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Marines stand in formation as the morning colors are raised to half mast outside of Building 1 here Sept. 11. After colors, service members and civilians walked to the Marine Memorial Chapel to attend the 9/11 Service of Remembrance.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Service members and civilians walk from Building 1 to Marine Memorial Chapel during the Freedom Walk held here Sept.11. A fire truck drove down the street as a procession of people followed to the station chapel. Service members walked side by side as mothers pushed their babies in strollers.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Mothers with their children in tow show their respects as the morning colors are raised in front of Building 1 here Sept. 11. After the colors were raised, a fire truck slowly drove down the street as the procession of people followed it to the station chapel.

FREEDOM WALK

Station remembers terrorist attacks of 9/11

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

On Sept. 11, service members and civilians gathered here in front of Building 1 to participate in the station's fourth annual Freedom Walk.

It has been eight years since Americans gathered around their televisions as the morning's terrorist attacks unfolded.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the nation appeared to have experienced a surge in patriotism. Every car seemed to don a small flag and country singers seemed to have a song declaring their pride for America. As time went on, the flags began to come down and the news specials on television began to fade.

"While each of us over the age of 20 may remember exactly where we were and what we were doing at the time news of the attacks flashed across the airwaves, our memories have dulled with the passage of time," said Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle, the commanding officer of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here. "In fact, part of that is by design. It's highly unusual to see footage of the attacks and the destruction on television because folks in the business think it's best if we forget the ugliness of that day."

For those in attendance at the Freedom Walk, it would have been near impossible to forget. Before the walk began service, members and civilians waited in front of Building 1 to pay respects to the colors as they were raised to half mast. After the colors were raised, a mass herd of people invaded the streets.

A fire truck drove down the street as the procession of people followed it to the station chapel. Service members walked side by side as mothers pushed their babies in strollers.

As people began to converge on the chapel, they encountered a large screen projecting photos from the attacks on 9/11.

"It's weird because those pictures bring back memories that I don't really have," said Nicole Parsels, who was only four when the terrorist attacks occurred. "It sounds strange, but I have grown up always hearing about 9/11 from my parents, so for me it has become this event that is very real for me. This event changed so many lives; it is the reason that a lot of people on this stationed joined the military in the first place."

Once the service began, the entire chapel had filled to standing room only. The congregation joined in singing "America the Beautiful" followed by words from Gackle.

After Gackle's words, there was one minute of silence. At the back of the chapel, a Marine rang a bell four times, once for each passenger jet lost.

"There are lessons in the tragedy of 9/11 for all of us," said Gackle. "The first lesson is that life really is fragile. Nearly 3,000 people awoke on Tuesday, the 11th of Sept. 2001, and expected to see other beautiful mornings in their lifetime. Until that first airliner struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m. - it was indeed a beautiful, calm, clear and sunny morning."

Gackle's message was about life's fragility, the price of freedom, and the importance of reflection.

As the crowd of people left the chapel, no one really knew what each individual was thinking. For Gackle it might have been a moment that reshaped painful memories of the past, while for Parsels it could have been an opportunity to ponder the ramifications of an event she cannot remember.

The walk and chapel service meant many things to many different people. For those who remember the date like it was yesterday and for those who were too young to recall, the stories, pictures and memorials can only help keep alive the memories of those who were lost.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

A Marine holds one of the 9/11 Remembrance coins given out by Marine Corps Community Services at the Freedom Walk held here Sept.11. The youngest Marines in attendance at the Freedom Walk were in elementary school during the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

The Gackle family show their respects as the morning colors are raised in front of Building 1 here Sept. 11. Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle, the commanding officer of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here, gave a speech at the 9/11 Service of Remembrance held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. MCCALL

KHOUSARI AHBAD, Helmand Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Samuel Meyer provides security during a patrol in Nawa District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan on Aug. 24, 2009. Meyer is a 20 year old machine gunner from Pasadena, Calif., deployed with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. U.S. Marines are conducting security patrols in the area to speak with the local populace to identify their issues and concerns. 1/5 is deployed with Regimental Combat Team 3, whose mission is to conduct counterinsurgency operations in partnership with the Afghan national security forces in southern Afghanistan.

KHOUSARI AHBAD, Helmand Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Squad Leader Sgt. Kevin Woods, 22, from Early, Texas, talks with local Afghans about current enemy activity in the area here Aug. 26, 2009. Woods is deployed with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. U.S. Marines are conducting security patrols in the area to speak with the local populace to identify their issues and concerns. 1/5 is deployed with Regimental Combat Team 3, whose mission is to conduct counterinsurgency operations.



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. MCCALL

5th Marine Regiment Marines operate out of enemy compound

LANCE CPL. JOHN M. MCCALL
REGIMENTAL
COMBAT TEAM 3

KHOUSARI AHBAD, HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, have been using formerly Taliban-owned real estate as a base of operations for nearly two months now.

During their time here, the troops have seen many changes and learned a few lessons since their arrival July 2. "When we first got here it was like a ghost town. We would go out on patrol and not see a single person," said Lance Cpl. Colin Newman, 20, a rifleman from Somerset, Wisc.

"Now, a lot of the locals that moved out are starting to come back. We're seeing much more activity around here," he said. Company C's 3rd Platoon is currently living in what was once a Taliban safe house. During the battalion's opening operation in Helmand Province, Marines discovered the compound.

"There were sleeping bags lined up outside, and there was food recently cooked when we got there," said Sgt. Kevin Woods, 22, a squad leader from Early, Texas. "A few compounds away, we found a cache consisting of more than 20 pressure plates, jugs of HME (homemade explosive), anti-tank mines and anti-personnel mines."

Unfortunately, before uncovering the cache, one of the platoon's vehicles ran over an improvised explosive device, injuring two of their comrades.

"I don't remember much of what happened after the explosion. I just remember having a bad feeling about that compound," said Lance Cpl.

Samuel Meyer, 20, a machine gunner from Pasadena, Calif.

"The next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital," Meyer said. Meyer was the turret gunner in the vehicle during that patrol. After the IED detonated, he was ejected from inside and landed in a nearby canal. 21-year-old Lance Cpl. James Buttery, a rifleman from Las Vegas, was driving when all this happened.

"We were about to pass the compound and everything just went black," Buttery said. "I woke up in the driver's seat and saw the side doors had been blown open. Meyer was out of the turret and my face was covered in blood."

Buttery had smashed his face against the steering wheel during the explosion. Luckily, both Marines escaped with only minor injuries.

"I feel grateful to be alive. It could have been a lot worse," Meyer said.

After all the dust had settled, Marines searched the nearby compound, uncovering the enemy hideout.

Living in that compound today, Marines with 3rd Platoon conduct operations throughout the area surrounding it and work together with the local populace to keep incidents like the one July 2 from happening again.

"We do a lot of security patrols in this area. We go around to compounds and let people know that we are in the area and to come talk to us if they have any information about enemy activity," Newman said.

The Marines of 3rd Platoon have found a place to call home for the time being and will continue to get to know their neighbors for the remainder of their seven-month deployment.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fall Term Japanese Class
The Public Affairs Office is ready to receive sign-ups for the 2009 Fall Term Japanese Class beginning Sept. 29 at the Iwakuni Civic Hall. There are 40 seats available on a first come first served basis. The cost is 500 yen. For more information or to enroll, contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

Pedodontist visit
Dr. Keith Coe, a board certified pediatric dental specialist, is slated to visit the Branch Health Clinic here and treat children from Monday to Sept. 24. Oral Sedation will be available if needed. To schedule an appointment for your

child call Dental at 253-3331.

Survival Japanese Class
Learn the very basics of Japanese and interact with the locals. A new class begins on the first Thursday of every month and meets for four consecutive weeks. The class is held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Japanese American Society Office Building 261. contact the JAS at 253-4744.

Iwakuni Teens
Join us for Club Beyond every Tuesday night. Enjoy games, music, food and fun plus a short Bible lesson. Club is held in Yujo Hall, between the chapel and thrift shop, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. every

Tuesday. 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 Marine Corps Community Services take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on the last Friday of every month there will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

Recruiting Gospel Choir Members for Annual Christmas Concert
We are preparing for the Annual Gospel Christmas Concert at Sinfonia Concert Hall on Dec. 5 and the Annual Community Gospel Christmas Concert in Hofu City Dec. 19. This year we'll have guest soloist: Dorothy Morrison, lead vocalist for Grammy Award winning song, "Oh Happy Day." Come and join us as we give back to the community the joyful gift of celebrating Christmas. We will

also provide a letter of appreciation for all choir members. Practices will start in September. Please call 090-4104-1541 or e-mail billiej316@gmail.com if you would like to join us or if you have any questions.

Distance Education enrollment
Through a variety of distance learning delivery systems, the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education 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 multi-national 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.

PMO Lost and Found
Please contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you lost anything around the station. The following are just some of what has been turned in: Hospitality Solutions International card, Maglight Flashlight 12 inches, black denim key case (six keys one 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 backpack with contents. Please contact PMO Lost and Found at 253-4929 or email carrie.white@usmc.mil for more information.

Parent's Dinner
Club Beyond and the Station Chapel are hosting a dinner for parents of teens on Sunday, Oct 4th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Come enjoy a meal with other parents, meet the staff and volunteers of chapel youth programs, and learn about the great activities available to Iwakuni teens including day trips, community service, club meetings, ski trips, etc. This is also a chance to give your inputs on programs you'd like to see, and find out how you can be involved. Your teenagers are also invited. To reserve a spot please call the chaplain's office at 253-3371 or call the youth director at 080-4177-2060.

To submit an event, automobile, item or job 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.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass
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 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine 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 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 jlataw@clubbeyond.org.

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, September 18, 2009

7 p.m. Aliens in the Attic (PG)
Premier
10 p.m. Funny People (R)
Premier

Saturday, September 19, 2009

1 p.m. Aliens in the Attic (PG)
4 p.m. Funny People (R)
7 p.m. Orphan (R)
10 p.m. The Ugly Truth (R)

Sunday, September 20, 2009

1 p.m. G-Force (PG)
4 p.m. Aliens in the Attic (PG)
7 p.m. Funny People (R)

Monday, September 21, 2009

7 p.m. Away We Go (R)
Last Showing
Tuesday, September 22, 2009
7 p.m. Funny People (R)

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

7 p.m. La Bamba (PG-13)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

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

Automobiles

1992 Gray Mitsubishi Chariot
JCI good until May 2010. CD Player - Runs great. Asking \$1000. For more information, call 080-3081-7198.

1994 Nissan Primera
\$1200 OBO. Dark blue 4 door dependable family car. CD player, A/C, automatic transmission. Road tax paid until next year. JCI good until April 2011. For more information, call 253-2171.

Miscellaneous

Various Furniture Items
Cream colored sofa with two matching chairs, rosewood legs - \$300 OBO
Queen bed set with two dressers, two

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, chalupa, pot roast, steamed rice, parsley buttered potatoes, corn on the cob, cauliflower au gratin, mushroom gravy, macaroni salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping, double layer banana cake.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Minestrone soup, tomato soup, New Port fried chicken, lasagna, spinach lasagna, mashed potatoes, Southern style greens, mixed vegetables, chicken or turkey gravy, garlic bread, potato salad, Italian style pastat salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake, coconut cream pies.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Chicken and rice soup, egg drop soup, sweet and sour chicken, yakisoba, egg foo yung, chinese egg rolls, pork fried rice, steamed rice, corn O'Brien, vegetable stir fry, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spring salad, standard salad bar, chocolate drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, lemon butter cream frosting, blueberry pie.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, chicken kiev, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, canned cream style corn, french fried cauliflower, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, pineapple upside down cake, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Deli Sandwich

Friday

Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, roast turkey, breaded pork chops, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, club spinach, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, turkey gravy, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double layer German chocolate cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, whipped topping.

nightstands and large mirror - \$400 OBO
Twin-size bed - \$60 OBO
Natural wood shoe box 5 feet tall - \$50 OBO
Japanese tansu five draws - \$50 OBO
Roll top desk (good study desk) - \$50 OBO
Sony TV 16 inches - \$50 OBO
Sharp TV 16 inches - \$50 OBO
JVC TV 22 inches - \$100 OBO
For more information, call 253-3496.

Various Items

2 kerosene heaters with kerosene- \$40 each
Japanese kitchen organizer, dark wood, in great condition!

It holds a microwave on top, has 2 slide out shelves, 1 large drawer, 2 small drawers and 4 shelves hidden by a door- \$75.

Metal, over the toilet shelf, still in box- \$20 OBO.

White square Corelle dinnerware for 7- \$5
6 clear glass cups- \$3.

Must sell all by Sept 28th.
For more information, call 080-3705-2974 or send an email to Jessica.a.lang@usmc.mil.

Missing iPhone

Would greatly appreciate if anyone comes across it. Desperately need important numbers on this phone and the sim card, there will be a \$100 awards to the person that returns the phone. The person can and will remain anonymous. If found contact the Provost Marshal's Office.

Lost Keys

Keys left at Baskin Robins on Sept 14, 2009. If found please return to the Provost Marshal's Office. The keys include a house, mail and car key along with a Torri Video card. For more information call 080-3414-6092.

Jobs

Chapel Positions Available

Now Hiring at Marine Memorial 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 that 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.

Housekeeper

Desperately seeking cleaning person. Looking for a cleaning person to come once a week and clean apartment in building 955. Tasks to include: dusting, vacuuming, cleaning windows, mopping, sweeping, bathrooms, cleaning out trash cans, cleaning air filters etc. If interested call 253-2505 or email nbear15@aol.com

CURFEW HOURS FOR UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

School started on Aug. 31 and the Provost Marshal's Office is enforcing the curfew.

Residents under 18 years old are required to be indoors from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on school nights (Sunday-Thursday) and 12 a.m. to 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.

Club Iwakuni recieves excellence award



On behalf of Larry Mask, former Club Iwakuni General Manager, and the Club Iwakuni management and staff, Joseph P. Ficocello, MCCS Iwakuni food and hospitality director, accepts the prestigious MCCS Food and Hospitality Award from Michael Tharrington, deputy director of operations and Carol Garland, head of MCCS food and and hospitality division. Club Iwakuni excelled in customer service, financial performance, human resources, and operations.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID HAIGH

Matthew C. Perry High School baseball



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Samurai pitcher Jacob McClenney throws one of many strikes during the season opener against the Sasebo E. J. King Cobras. The Samurai beat the Cobras 10-9 after six innings of baseball to jump to a 1-0 record.

Samurai pitching beats Cobras 10-9 in bottom of 6th

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2009 Matthew C. Perry baseball season swung into action at the main softball field here Sept. 11 where the Samurai came back to beat the E. J. King Cobras from Sasebo 10-9.

The Samurai's win was the first of the season and a good way to begin on the right path to success with a 1-0 record.

The Cobras put up a good fight, never really letting the Samurai put away the win.

The Cobras came out swinging, but hitting wasn't their problem: it was getting the base runners to cross home plate.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

M.C. Perry pitcher David Richardson winds up to throw a pitch during the Samurai season opener held at the main softball field here Sept. 11. The Samurai beat E. J. King Cobras 10-9 in six innings.

The Samurai held the Cobras to no runs until the fourth inning. The Cobras started the inning down 2-0 but rallied in seven runs before they were retired for the inning.

"We went out and played hard the whole game; I don't ever think that it's over," said Nick Martinez, Cobras coach. "We have to play a whole six or seven innings or two hours."

It was clear the tables had turned for the Samurai, and they had to come up with a good strategy if they wanted to come out with a victory.

"Our strategy was to try to steal our way back in," said Samurai coach Richard Peterson. "We just decided to take it one hit at a time and not try to get it all back at once."

It was a good strategy that paid off for the Samurai as they chipped away at the Cobras' lead, earning two runs of their own in the fourth and narrowing the gap down 7-4.

In the top of the fifth, the Samurai stopped the Cobras right in their tracks, retiring them early thanks to great field work.

"I thought our fielding did really well," said Peterson.

The Samurai decided to do some rallying of their own in the bottom of the fifth with Dims Wakimoto, second baseman and catcher leading off with a single.

Samurai infielder David Richardson helped keep the rally alive with a single, as well as bringing in Wakimoto after a few stolen bases.

The drive continued throughout the inning

with hits by Hayden Miller, Samurai first baseman, and Israel Holquin, Samurai left fielder.

By the end of the fifth the Samurai had taken the momentum and the lead 8-7.

"They did well, they got in a couple of tight spots, but battled through it," said Peterson. "They did really good once they relaxed and did it."

The Samurai got ahead with only one inning left to play, but the Cobras wouldn't go out with out a fight.

The Cobras once again rallied and once again took the lead 9-8.

With no time left to play another inning, it was up to the Samurai to heat up their bats again and produce at least two runs to pull off a win.

Samurai outfielder Ryan Schmitt was the first up to bat in the sixth but later struck out.

With one out and two runs needed for the win, Samurai pitcher Jacob McClenney was beamed and awarded a base.

McClenney took advantage of his free base by stealing second and third.

With the tying run on third, Wakimoto hit a screaming line drive up the middle which took a generous bounce and brought McClenney home for the tie.

Samurai infielder David Richardson drove in the final run after hitting a single to end the game 10-9.

"I was very proud of the Samurai. They battled back not once but twice to comeback and win this game," said Peterson.



Fall Classic



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron quarterback Samuel "All State" Anderson dives toward the end zone for a touchdown during the annual Fall Classic Football game between H&HS and Marine Aircraft Group 12. H&HS beat MAG-12 26-20 to regain the title after MALS-12 broke H&HS's 10-year winning streak last fall.

MAG-12 outplayed 26-20, H&HS regains title



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron running back Gregory Joseph runs for a big gain during the 2009 Fall Classic football game held at the Northside football field here Sept. 11. Joseph was named the game's most valuable player.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron brought back the title after Marine Aircraft Group 12 broke a 10-year Fall Classic flag football game-winning streak last year.

H&HS took down MAG-12 26-20 after four quarters on the gridiron here at the north side football field Sept. 11.

H&HS controlled the ball for most of the game eating up the clock and not letting MAG-12 have much of a chance to put any points up early. MAG-12 did have a few good plays here and there but was unable to capitalize on the plays that would have put points on the board. "I think the key difference was we had a good team of players that stuck to it," said Keith "Apples" Applegate, coach for H&HS.

H&HS took early command of the ball in the first quarter jumping to a 7-0 lead and never really looked back.

With less than 30 seconds left in the first quarter, MAG-12 caught their first break of the game by stopping H&HS inside MAG-12's five yard line and forcing a turnover on downs.

MAG-12 managed to get out of their own red-zone and close to mid-field with 17.1 seconds remaining in the quarter and down by six points.

After a much needed time out, MAG-12 came out for what ended up being the final play of the quarter. It was a deep pass down field that was broken up by H&HS corner James Allen to end the quarter.

The second quarter was much like the first with lots of sloppy plays by both teams and not

many points.

MAG-12 was able to get on the board with six, but at the half they were still down 13-6.

H&HS came out of the half a little sluggish and in need of refreshment. MAG-12 capitalized on H&HS's lack of intensity, and scored another touchdown, along with a two-point conversion, to take the lead for the first time in the game, putting the score at 14-13 with 6:12 left in the third quarter.

After an earful of coach Apples' motivation, H&HS went the length of the field in less than three minutes to regain the lead 19-14 with 3:43 left in the quarter.

"I couldn't have asked for more in terms of effort," said Applegate. "The guys laid it all out."

At the end of the third quarter, it was 19-14 and clearly MAG-12 needed help.

With only 12 minutes left in the game MAG-12 marched down the field managing most of the fourth quarter until H&HS runningback Gregory Joseph made his second pick of the day and took it to the house for six, extending H&HS's lead 26-14 after the extra point.

"With out our D-line rushing, the quarterback and having pressure, he wouldn't have thrown it to where I was," said Joseph.

Although MAG-12 answered right back with a touchdown of their own, it was just too little too late to make a comeback.

H&HS held onto the ball until the final whistle blew and proved they were the better team on the field that day.

"We got our trophy back," said Applegate. "This is for Lt. Col. Ardesse, all the Marines, sailors, and civilians of H&HS ... Oorah!"