

VMFA(AW)-242

Training never ends | p. 4

CORPSMEN

Repairing backbone of Marine Corps | p. 5

COMMANDER'S CUP

See who endured latest challenge | p. 11

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 24, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Graduation not end, but beginning

Cpl. Kristin E. Moreno
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Twenty-eight Matthew C. Perry High School students took the first step of the rest of their lives by graduating at the Marine Memorial Chapel here June 16.

In 2007, the 28 students entered High School as freshmen. Seven-hundred and twenty-two days later, they're walking out as adults ready to take on the world.

And take on the world they will. Some will continue on to college to study medicine, music, and everything in between, while others plan to join the military to serve their country or jump right into the working world. But no matter their choice, each is destined for success.

"You have brains in your head. You have

SEE GRADUATION ON PAGE 3

New commander takes charge of MWSS-171

Lance Cpl. Marcel Brown
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Former Marine Corps attaché' for U.S. Embassy Beijing, China, took command of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 during a change of command ceremony at the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 hangar here June 15.

Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor relieved Lt. Col. Christopher A. Feyedelem, who is headed to Philadelphia, Pa., where he will be attending the Logistics Fellows Program at Pennsylvania State University.

Taylor graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 1993 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant and combat engineer officer.

After completing basic school and Marine Corps Engineer School, Camp LeJeune, N.C., Taylor was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 as the construction section officer-in-charge.

Following his duties in Camp Pendleton, Taylor was assigned to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as the executive officer and company commander for company Bravo.

SEE READY ON PAGE 3



CPL ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Lt. Col. Chris T. Pappas III, former Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 commanding officer, passes the squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Richard Petersen, current VMFA(AW)-242 commanding officer, during a change-of-command ceremony at the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar here June 15. Pappas is headed to Fort McNair, Washington D.C., where he will be attending Top Level School.

VMFA(AW)-242 receives new commanding officer

Lance Cpl. Marcel Brown
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The former Marine Aircraft Group 12 director of safety and standardization took command of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 during a change of command ceremony at the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar here June 15.

Lt. Col. Richard Petersen relieved Lt. Col. Chris T. Pappas III, who is headed to Fort McNair, Washington D.C., where he will be attending Top Level School.

Petersen graduated from the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1993.

In September 1997, Petersen was assigned to VMFA-121, where he held the position as the ground training officer, airframes division officer and aviation officer.

During Petersen's time with VMFA(AW)-121 he deployed to Iwakuni, Japan, under the Unit Deployment Program and to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch.

In 2001, Petersen was directed as the VMFA(AW)-121 flight officer and pilot training officer.

While holding these positions, Petersen

deployed to Egypt for Exercise Bright Star, Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In February 2004, Petersen was assigned as the Marine Aircraft Group 11 weapons and tactics instructor, a position he held until July 2004.

After relinquishing his duties with MAG-11, Petersen was assigned to Headquarters, Marine Corps as a program coordinator at the Pentagon.

In January 2008, Petersen deployed to Al Asad Airbase, Iraq, as the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing fixed wing weapons and tactics instructor and a future plans officer.

From September 2008 until June 2009, Petersen was assigned as the executive officer for VMFA-232, and from June to December 2009 he was the operations officer and special duty officer for MAG-11.

Petersen's personal achievements and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal Strike/Flight Award with a bronze numeral seven, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one gold star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Victory over defeat'

Lt. Anthony Baker
MWSS-171 CHAPLAIN

One of the greatest achievements and moments of fulfillment that I have had in life is defeating an enemy, metaphorically speaking, that once defeated me.

A week ago, my softball team, MWSS-171/B.O.P, beat the H&HS softball team in the championship game to capture the MCAS Iwakuni title. In the final inning, when the last out was made, all the players on my team rushed the pitcher's mound.

We slapped high-fives and exchanged slaps on the back but avoided the customary dog pile.

My team is an older crew, so the dog pile would have surely resulted in a trip to the nearby urgent care facility.

What made the victory so sweet was that my team had been defeated by that same

H&HS team at another softball tournament on base.

On that occasion, H&HS was first place, and we were second place. On this most recent occasion, MWSS-171 was the victor.

Again, we defeated an enemy that once defeated us.

As I have matured in my Christian faith, one of the joys that I have had in the walk with God is gaining victory over areas of my life that were once impossible to conquer.

I won't bore you with my anecdotes and stories from my life but what I can say is that many folks struggle in areas of drinking, smoking, eating, gambling, sex and pornography.

To make the matters worse, many folks trapped in these areas really, really want to find a way out of their struggles, but they can't seem to beat it.

Every time a resolution is made to quit that one "thing" or a promise is made not to do that "thing" ever again, it is made in sincerity but fulfilled without power. The hope in the heart

believes the struggles could pass, but the thought in the back of the mind says, "I will stumble again."

When we get our hearts right with God, when we start living for God, when we turn our focus from ourselves inward to Him, upward, the world takes on a different perspective.

Life becomes less about fulfilling the desires of our senses and more about living for someone other than ourselves.

We get so busy and so consumed with doing God's will that the areas where we were once defeated, we now have victory over.

Will we make mistakes along the way?

Sure we will.

Will it be easy to do?

Not all the time.

Will there be struggles?

Absolutely.

Just as in softball, there will be errors, pop-ups and over-throws to first.

But with God on our team, he promises that we will always be victorious.

Fireworks and barbeque safety

submitted by
STATION SAFETY OFFICE

Fireworks are not allowed on base for personal use, but here are some safety tips for using them.

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Always have water handy. (A hose or bucket).

- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.

- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.

- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."

- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type. (According to the National Council on Fireworks Safety).
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks. It is illegal and unsafe.

Barbecue safety and food handling:

Here are some tips to keep it safe and fun when you barbecue.

First let's give the barbecue an inspection.

You should make a point of doing this every time you change a propane tank as well.

Spray soapy water on the connections, and supply lines. If you see bubbles, then gas is still leaking. Shut off the tank

and get the leaky part replaced.

Remove the grates and lava rocks, and check out the burner. If it looks good visually, then fire it up, and make sure that you have an even flame throughout. If not, then replace it. Most burners only last 1 or 2 seasons, depending on how much you use your barbecue.

Since you already have the lava rocks out, clean out all the ash and grease that's accumulated at the bottom of the barbecue. While you're cleaning, check the unit for rust, and any signs of deterioration.

Don't forget to check and clean out the vent tubes that deliver the gas to the burner. If they get plugged up, the gas will get diverted elsewhere, and could pose a hazard.

Gas Grills on Mid-rise balconies:

Per Marine Corps Air Station policy letter 2-06R, the use of charcoal grills and grills with propane tanks exceeding 16.4 ounces in weight are not authorized for use on mid-rise balconies. The use of gas grills on mid-rise balconies is limited to small grills utilizing propane gas cylinders not exceeding 16.4 ounces in weight. Request to utilize gas grill on mid-rise balcony must be approved by the Station Fire Department Inspector and Director, Military Housing.

Here are a few tips for charcoal grillers.

Never use gasoline to get

the coals going. Instead, use charcoal lighting fluid.

Let the lighter fluid soak into the coals for a minute or so before lighting it. That gives the explosive vapors a chance to dissipate. Stand back from the coals when you ignite them, and make sure you didn't accidentally spill any fluid on yourself, or on any area surrounding the grill.

Before you light the coals, make sure that you put the lighter fluid at a safe distance away from the fire.

If the coals start to die out on you, don't spray lighter fluid on the hot coals. You could end up with explosive results. Always extinguish the coals when you're finished barbecuing. Here's a safe way to do it. Wearing oven mitts, take the coals out of the barbecue with tongs, and submerge them in a metal pail of water.

Always make sure that you keep your fire safe from children.

Food handling:

Avoid contact between raw and cooked food. Serve cooked food on a clean plate and use clean utensils. Never use the same unwashed plate to thaw meat, poultry or fish and serve food. Use separate utensils for each dish. Use disposable gloves, tongs, napkins and plates to handle food. Gloves should be changed often and between handling raw and cooked food. Food handlers should not handle money and money handlers should not handle food.

New commanding officer for MWSS-171

READY FROM PAGE 1

After completing his duties at Camp Pendleton, Taylor received orders to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and served first as a 3rd Battalion series commander, and then as a company commander.

Taylor was then assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion to serve as the commanding officer for Company Charlie.

While serving as the MWSS-372 operations officer, Taylor deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Taylor's personal achievements and decorations include the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal.

Class of 2010 takes next step

GRADUATION FROM PAGE 1

feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go," said Mark Lange, guest speaker, teacher and boys soccer coach, as he quoted Dr. Seuss to wrap up his address to the 2010 graduating class.

This year's valedictorian was Cody Garner, who plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University for sports medicine. The class salutatorians were Martin Smallwood, who plans on jumping into the working world, and Mikhael Cometa, who plans on attending Azusa Pacific University for graphic design.

As the graduates received their well-earned diplomas, a speaker announced the students' plans for the future and their special "thank-yous" to their friends and families.

"I feel really good (about graduating) and scared at the same time because I have no idea what the future holds for me because I'm going to be independent, but it's a good feeling," said Cometa. "It's been fun living here, but I need something new in my life. I'm starting a new chapter."

"Cherish our times together. Cherish the memories," was the advice Cometa gave his fellow graduates.

Congratulations to the class of 2010. May you achieve success in every facet of life.

Armed Forces Voters Week, Overseas Citizens Voters Week

June 28 to July 7 is designated as Armed Forces Voters Week and Overseas Citizens Voters Week.

There will be voting information tables on how to request a ballot located in the Crossroads and in both mess halls. For more information, a list of dates for the upcoming state elections and general election, or to request a ballot via the internet, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.fvap.gov or contact your local voting officer.

Local Voting Officers:

MCAS Iwakuni - Maj. Mark McCauley - 253-5314
MAG-12 - Capt. Timothy Banks - 253-5768
H&HS - Maj. Gerard Fontenot - 255-1212
MALS-12 - 1st Lt. Shawn Loughman - 253-6761
VMFA(AW)-242 - Capt. Preston Pack - 253-4079
MWSS-171 - 1st Lt. Ivan Perez - 253-3361
CLC-36 - Staff Sgt. Ajene Webley - 253-6016
Medical - HM1 William Gordan - 253-4249
Dental - Lt. Michael Hogan - 253-5252



CPL ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Lt. Col. Christopher A. Feyedelem (right) passes the organizational colors to Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor during the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 change of command ceremony here June 15. The exchange of the organizational colors is symbolic of the transfer of command from the outgoing commanding officer to the oncoming commanding officer.

2010 M.C. Perry Graduates

Kyle C. Botts – San Diego State University, creative writing
Meradith L. Brown – Central Washington University, biology
Andre N.S. Bugawan – California State University at Sacramento
Caroline R. Chambers – Florida Gulf Coast University, mathematics
Michael L. Chaney – University of Maryland
Juan M.A. Cometa – Azusa Pacific University, graphic design
Jeffery S. Cope, Jr. – Undecided
Jennifer M. Cordero – U.S. Air Force
Kalani E. Cowfer – College
Miranda S. Croom – Grace Community College, graphic design, 3D animation
Katelynn N. Cutshall – University of West Florida, education
Clint J.D. Demetiez – Jacksonville University, nursing
Cody J. Garner – Florida Gulf Coast University, sports medicine
Cole R. Miller – Work
Robin G. Morin – Wright State University, physical therapy
Paolo J.F. Oconer – Old Dominion University, communications
Kathleen A. Perry – University of Miami, music
Kelsey A. Peterson – University of Texas at Austin, medicine
LaShea C. Redick – College
Robert M.M. Roldan – George Mason University, engineering
Martin E. Smallwood – Work
Stephen R. Talley – Working for Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni
Cheyenne C. Vallee – Work
K. Matthew Villalino – University of Hawaii, prelaw
Fred B. Warren III – George Military College, engineering
Trevor C. Wentling – Winthrop University, music
Remington J. Wimberly – University of Maryland, business management
Jordan K. Young – U.S. Air Force



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

From left to right Spc. Sherwin Garcia, Sgt. Chris Garcia, Capt. Kimberly Yore and Sgt. Rabosky Tanner celebrate the Army's birthday at the south side mess hall here June 15.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VMFA(AW)-242

Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242 A-6AE Intruders fly through the air. During the Vietnam War, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 was known as the VMA(AW)-242 Batmen. At the end of the war, VMA(AW)-242 was recorded as having logged 16,783 combat sorties and delivering 85,990 tons of ordnance.

VMFA(AW)-242 Bats gather to honor past

Lance Cpl. Claudio Martinez
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Every squadron and unit within the Marine Corps has its own proud legacy filled with the heroic acts accomplished by its Marines in and out of battle.

In order to make their own Marines aware of their squadron's heritage, the Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 command held a professional military education class for all its Marines at the Eagles Nest here June 17.

"When the Marines check in, they see a symbol, they see a patch, and they see Marines who have been in for a while but they don't know what those Marines have been through," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Valdez, VMFA(AW)-242 ordnance officer-in-charge. "They don't know what the Marines who've worn that patch have been through, and it's important for them to understand that because there is a legacy there, and there is a tradition."

The VMFA(AW)-242

Bats spent the latter part of the afternoon at the Eagles Nest learning about their squadron's part in the Vietnam War and about their predecessors' accomplishments.

They learned about the sacrifices made by Marines like Lt. Patrick Curran, a Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron-242 pilot and Lt. Col. Albert Luther Lono, VMA(AW)-242 executive officer; both were declared missing in action during a reconnaissance bombing mission over Laos during the Vietnam War.

The Bats sat in silence as they listened to the sad words written by Cpl. Dean Glorso, VMA(AW)-242 mail clerk, which he wrote in a poem when he received a letter addressed to his recently declared MIA executive officer.

The letter was written by Lono's wife, she being unaware Lono was MIA. After discussing the accomplishments and losses the Bats endured during the Vietnam War, several of the senior ranking Marines spoke of their own personal experiences in battle, stressing that every Marine in the

squadron needs to be aware of their history and ready for battle.

"This (PME) is much needed for the new guys that come (into the squadron) to get a foundation. It's not just the every day grind of just turning the wrench," said Pfc. Reynaldo Torres, a VMFA(AW)-242 aviation technician. "It's good to have the history, the background of where we came from. This way we know where we're going."

Torres said the history he learned during the PME assured him of his squadron's capabilities in war, and he is sure his squadron would do well if called to war again.

VMFA(AW)-242 was born on July 1, 1943 in Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., when it was activated as Marine Torpedo Bombing Squadron 242 during World War II.

Armed and flying with TBF-1 and TBM-1 Avengers, the squadron started writing their long history with torpedoes and explosions during successful bombing missions in the Northern Solomon's and the Battles of Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Following the Battle

of Iwo Jima, the squadron flew anti-submarine patrols in the Pacific Theater until the end of WWII and was deactivated on Nov. 23, 1945.

The squadron was reactivated on Oct. 1, 1960 as Marine Attack Squadron 242.

Equipped with Douglas A4D Skyhawks, VMA-242 was thoroughly trained in the use of high explosive ordnance, rockets, napalm and atomic weapons.

When the threat of war loomed over the United States in the form of the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, VMA-242 responded to the call and within a matter of hours was deployed to Key West, Fla., ready for war until the withdrawal of the Russian built offensive weapons from Cuba.

In September 1963, VMA-242 spent a year with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing operating out of Iwakuni, Japan, until September 1964.

After being designated as Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242 and being equipped with A-6A Intruders, VMA(AW)-242 was deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam, where they launched combat opera-

tions against the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong.

VMA(AW)-242 departed Vietnam in September 1970 after having logged 16,783 combat sorties and delivering 85,990 tons of ordnance.

VMA(AW)-242 was designated with their present name of VMFA(AW)-242 in 1990 and began using F/A-18D Night Attack Hornets, which they've used during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Phantom Fury.

The Bats delivered more than 300,000 pounds of ordnance during the battle for Al Fajlah and employed more than 400,000 pounds during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It wasn't until March 2008 that the VMFA(AW)-242 Bats relocated from MCAS Miramar, Calif., to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan to become part of Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Editor's Note: References used for this article include Web sites <http://www.vma-aw-242.com> and <http://www.1maw.usmc.mil/> p?unit=VMFA(AW)-242.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Seaman Richard Grassley, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic immunizations work center supervisor, administers small pox immunization shots to Pfc. Edward York II at the Branch Health Clinic here June 18. Grassley is currently in charge of administering shots to all base dependents.

Road to Navy Corpsman provides insight in Naval history

Lance Cpl. Marcel Brown
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Back in the early 1800s, Navy medical assistants were randomly assigned out of the ship's company.

These individuals were responsible for keeping irons hot and buckets of sand prepared for any battle injuries the ship mates might experience.

In those days, amputations were a commonly used solution for large wounds. During these procedures, irons were used to close wounds, and sand was used to keep the surgeon from slipping on the victim's blood.

Over the years, these assistants have been referred to as loblolly boys, nurses, baymen and surgeon's stewards, but in our day and age we refer to them as Navy corpsmen, the guardians of the backbone of Marine Corps and Navy health care.

The hospital corpsmen have many jobs and responsibilities, including assisting health care professionals in providing proper medical attention to sailors and their families, assisting in preventing and treating diseases and injury, serving as medical or administrative personnel, functioning as clinical or specialty technicians, functioning as health care providers at medical treatment facilities and providing health care services to Marines in garrison and in combat environments.

"There's always that day where something different comes up and you have to be able to adapt to that, stay on your toes and make sure you don't make any mistakes," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Cooper, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron medical readiness representative.

Navy corpsmen go through four months of hands-on basic training in the Naval Hospi-



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Seaman Richard Grassley, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic immunizations work center supervisor, administers a vaccine to 14-month-old Zach Hollowell at the Clinic here June 18.

tal Corps School, located in Great Lakes, Ill., which is one of the Navy's primary rating training schools.

"We do what basically other medics can't do," said Seaman Richard Grassley, Branch Health Clinic immunization work center supervisor. "They have to go to other schools to learn everything. We learn it all in one school."

After completing the Naval Hospital Corps School, corpsmen are given the Navy Enlisted Classification code HM-0000 or quad zero, and they can be assigned anywhere from Naval hospitals and clinics, aboard ships or Marine Corps bases as primary caregivers on.

"They are an asset to the Marine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Hewan Mussie, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administrator. "They look out for the wellbeing of the Marines."

Being constantly involved with Marines, corpsmen sometimes have to abide by Marine Corps regulations and physical standards.

"I think corpsmen have a lot of pride in what they do, and the way I look at it is I have to be better than every Marine I'm taking care of or at least a majority of them," said Cooper.

"If I'm not physically ready or mentally ready, then I can't take care of people, so I have to take care of myself so I can take care of others," said Cooper.

Since corpsmen are the primary medical caregivers to Marines, they constantly deploy with Marines, but not all corpsmen are eligible to deploy into combat environments.

In order to be eligible to deploy in support of troops in combat, corpsmen have to complete more specialized training in addition to their basic training, such as Field Medical Training.

Once a corpsman completes one of the specialized training courses or "C schools," the NEC they've earned at that school becomes their primary NEC and their previous NEC as HM-0000 becomes their secondary NEC.

After all their training and course completions, corpsmen are usually assigned based on where their knowledge and skills are most needed around the military.

Although it is a demanding job, both Grassley and Cooper said they have both enjoyed being Navy corpsmen, and they enjoy doing their everyday duties.

"I love it; it's been a great opportunity not only to learn but just to meet a diverse group of people," said Cooper.

Every military installation has health care providers, every military installation has health clinics, every military has doctors, but not every military installation has Navy corpsmen, and for Marines, the services the Navy corpsmen provide keeps troops physically prepared to go to or remain in the fight.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Hospital Corpsman Ball attendees stand to their feet as station corpsman present the colors during the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Hospital Corpsman Ball hosted at the Club Iwakuni Eagles Nest here June 18. Ball attendees spent the evening celebrating the Naval corpsman history and traditions while honoring their fallen comrades.

Hospital Corpsmen celebrate 112 years of history, healing

Lance Cpl. Claudio A. Martinez
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Community members gathered at the Club Iwakuni Eagles Nest here to commemorate the 112th birthday of the Hospital Corpsman, June 18.

They spent the evening celebrating the Naval corpsman history and traditions while honoring their fallen comrades.

"I think this was an outstanding opportunity to show our pride for our job," said Petty Officer 3rd class Anthony Cooper, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron medical readiness representative and Hospital Corpsman Ball attendee. "I think it's great that we not only have other rates from the Navy but we have Marines here to celebrate, and that's a big thing for us because we work hand in hand with Marines."

As long as the United States has been involved in war, there has always been a need for medical personnel on the field of battle.

Although the need was there, it wasn't properly addressed with personnel who were trained specifically for medical treatment on the field.

The need for a skilled group of trained medical professionals in the field of battle became more apparent as the methods of killing in warfare advanced during the late 1800s.

With the threat of the Spanish-American War, Congress approved a bill which created the naval

rates of hospital apprentice, hospital apprentice first class and hospital steward on June 17, 1898, officially bringing the hospital corpsman to birth.

Station corpsman remembered and honored that long history as they observed a moment of silence for past corpsman and reaffirmed their commitment to being a corpsman by reciting the corpsman's pledge.

"(Being a corpsman) means a lot (to me)," said Cooper. "I've learned a lot since I've been here about what a corpsman is. Being a corpsman, you got to be able to take care of yourself as well as your Marines and sailors. You got to have that pride and professionalism about yourself at all times and be able to handle yourself so you can take care of the rest of the populace."

During the ball, station members observed a cake cutting ceremony, which involved Chief Adrian Figueroa, Hospital Corpsman Ball guest speaker, Chief Simeon Cadavos, oldest corpsman present at the ball, and Seaman Zachary Hallowood, youngest corpsman present.

Figueroa cut the cake and passed a slice to Cadavos, who took a bite and then symbolically passed the slice along with their long history to Hallowood.

Figueroa said being a corpsman and having the honor of carrying the history and responsibility of a corpsman fills him with an indescribable feeling.

"I can't put it into words," said Figueroa. "It's just the compassion."

Seaman Apprentice Valentin Schmid, a family practice hospital corpsman, reaffirms his corpsman oath during the 2010 Hospital Corpsman Ball hosted at the Club Iwakuni Eagles Nest here June 18. In closing out the ceremony, all hospital corpsman present at the ball rose to their feet and reaffirmed their oath.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Chief Adrian Figueroa, hospital corpsman ball guest speaker, cuts the cake during the hospital corpsman cake cutting ceremony at the Club Iwakuni Eagles Nest here June 18. After cutting the cake, Figueroa passed the first slice to Chief Simeon Cadavos, oldest corpsman present at the ceremony, and Seaman Zachary Hallowood, youngest corpsman present at the ceremony.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

This table was set aside in honor and reverence of all men and women prisoners of war from all services during the Hospital Corpsmen Ball hosted at the Club Iwakuni Eagles Nest here June 18. The white table cloth symbolized the purity of their intentions in responding to their country's call to arms so their children could remain free. The burning candle symbolized the frailty of a prisoner alone standing up to his oppressors. The red ribbon was a symbol of those who would not return home, and the rose symbolized the hope of the family members who await their return home. A slice of lemon symbolized the prisoner's bitter fate if he is never brought home, while salt on the plate symbolized the tears shed by family members awaiting the prisoner's return home. The glass turned upside down symbolized the prisoners inability to toast everyone else.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Helmand Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Lt. Col. Matt Baker and Sgt. Maj. Dwight D. Jones, commanding officer and sergeant major, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, retire the battalion colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Geronimo where 1/3 handed over their area of operations to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, June 6.

America's Battalion takes over Lava Dogs' area of operations in Helmand

Sgt. Mark Fayloga
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 7

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Helmand Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — As Col. Randall P. Newman spoke during the transfer of authority ceremony from the 'Lava Dogs' 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, at Forward Operating Base Geronimo, June 6, he had to raise his voice to be heard over the hum of a nearby generator.

The Regimental Combat Team 7 commanding officer didn't mind competing with the steady whir of the generator. To the contrary, he saw it as progress.

After all, if he had been in the same spot last year, he would need to yell to be heard over the sound of gunfire. FOB Geronimo isn't the only area to have seen that kind of change.

"Now in areas of Nawa, most specifically the district center and the likes, there are places where a short year ago, rounds were exchanged in combat as people resisted that effort to bring this back to the Afghan people," Newman said. "Today, in place of that combat, there are men and women shopping, going about their normal business with a sense of freedom that hasn't been felt there in a while. Nothing can speak more highly than that. We've given back to a fellow human being the opportunity to achieve a better future."

Although 3/3, known as "America's Battalion," has been operating in Helmand province for weeks, the

ceremony marked the official turnover of the area of operations from 1/3's authority to 3/3's.

At the ceremony, Newman wasn't the only one to note the progress made as a result of 1/3's work. Haji Abdul Manaf, Nawa District governor, was quick to praise 1/3, remarking he wished the U.S. government would write the names of the battalion's men on golden pages for the people of the United States and Afghanistan.

"[Lt.] Col. Matt Baker is a great warrior and great supporter of Nawa peace and prosperity," Manaf said. "This word is coming from all the elders and citizens of Nawa, that we express our appreciation of Col. Matt Baker and his hard work and we hope that 3/3 will keep that same support and relationship."

Baker, though honored by the praise, was quick to point out there is a set of names far more important than his own.

"While my name ends up being the name that gets mentioned, first and foremost there are more important people to mention," Baker said. "There is an entire battalion of Marines that did work for us, it's not possible to have the accomplishments we've had if it weren't for Sgt. Maj. [Dwight D.] Jones and all the officers and staff of 1/3. The names that I want to make absolutely certain that we say out loud today are the names of those who will not be going home."

Baker went on to solemnly read off the names of the four men from 1/5 and five from 1/3 who died supporting Nawa.

"These Marines will not be going home, did not go home with their battalions," Baker said. "It's very, very important that we never forget their names."



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Helmand Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Col. Randall P. Newman, commanding officer, Regimental Combat Team 7, addresses the crowd at a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Geronimo where 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, took over 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's area of operations, June 6. "To Lt. Col. [Matt] Baker and the team of 1/3, it's been a true honor to watch you work," Newman said. "It's not without a great amount of effort, sacrifice, and blood, sweat and tears that progress is made in a fight like this. I appreciate every bit of what you guys have put forward."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Combat Camera Web site

The new Combat Camera Web site can be viewed at <https://intranet.iwakuni.nmci.usmc.mil/CombatCamera/index.html>. The new site displays all pertinent information about Combat Camera and provides height and weight verification cards for promotion photos, as well as the funding approval form for commands outside of Station and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

Town Hall Meeting

Station Facilities will be hosting a Transportation Plan Meeting to discuss the future base growth and development. The purpose of the meeting is to gather information from existing base personnel regarding current transportation patterns, habits, origins and desti-

nations, as well as major routes currently utilized.

The meetings are scheduled for: Unaccompanied Personnel: June 21 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Building 360, Crow's Nest. Accompanied Personnel: June 22 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in Building 360, Crow's Nest.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP(2837) Life limb or loss of vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700. For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.

Soap-Box Confessions presents Spoken Word Poetry

Come vent what you feel or just sit back and relax with the vibe at Spoken Word Poetry in the Botan Tower community room, 589 June 15 and 29. Hosted by The Poet CoFFY and Miss Supreme, free and open to all adults. For more information, call 080-3700-7540 or e-mail hottcoffy@hotmail.com.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at

253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, room 148.

Summer Reading Program

The station library will launch its "Voyage to Book Island" summer reading program June 23 – Aug. 4 and will be open to readers 5-12 years old. Summer reading participants will meet every Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the station library to participate in games, art and craft projects, and story time. For more information, stop by the library circulation desk or call 253-5156 or e-mail pughbj@usmc-mccs.com.

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.

Brief Submissions

To submit a community brief, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively you can submit your brief or classified request in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, room 216. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will be run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for style length.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

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

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11 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)
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ

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

Latter Day Saints

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

Teen Programs

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

Call 080-4177-2060 or e-mail jletaw@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.

BOOT SCOOTIN' ROUNDUP

A live 1-hour radio show featuring the best country music. Kick up your boots 9 - 10 a.m. Mondays-Thursdays on Power 1575.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, June 25, 2010

7 p.m. The Back-up Plan (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. A Nightmare on Elm Street (R)

Monday, June 28, 2010

7 p.m. Kick Ass (R)

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

1 p.m. The Karate Kid (PG)
7 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)
Last Showing

Saturday, June 26, 2010

1 p.m. Furry Vengeance (PG)
Premier
4 p.m. Shrek Forever After (PG)
7 p.m. The Karate Kid (PG)
Premier

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

7 p.m. The Back-up Plan (PG-13)

Thursday, July 1, 2010

1 p.m. Furry Vengeance (PG)
7 p.m. Sex and the City 2 (R)

Sunday, June 27, 2010

1 p.m. Furry Vengeance (PG)
4 p.m. The Back-up Plan (PG-13)
7 p.m. Kick Ass (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura often for updates, or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.

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

1996 Honda Odyssey

Great family car. Good AC and heat/power windows and locks. JCI until Oct. 2010. Asking \$2,800. For more information, call 090-3906-0157.

Jobs

Dental Assistants

The Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic is seeking two certified dental assistants for a great opportunity in dental healthcare services. For more information, stop by the dental clinic in Bldg. 111 or call 253-5252/3331 to speak with HM1 Taft or HMC Hunter.

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities

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, call 253-5311.

USNH Yokosuka Openings

Registered nurse, family practice provider and physician assistant positions open at Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni. Family nurse practitioner position open at Branch Health Clinic Sasebo. Performance improvement coordinator, ob nurse and dental assistant positions open at Yokosuka Clinic. For more information, call 243-6835 or 046-816-6835. Interested applicants should register with the Central Contractor Registration at <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/default.aspx>.

Miscellaneous

Twin Bed for Sale

Brand new twin captain's bed. Asking \$450 OBO. For more information, call 080-4317-6913.

Brights Starts Bouncer

Great condition, already assembled. Fully loaded with toys, lights and melodies. Asking \$65 OBO. For more information, call 080-3369-6031.

Advertisement Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified request, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, at least one phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, submit your brief or classified in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, room 216. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will be run the following Friday on a space-available basis. Please keep in mind, the Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of mushroom soup, Creole soup, steak ranchero, braised pork chops, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, 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, mix 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, oven roast, noodles jefferson, steamed rice, brussels sprouts, broccoli combo, biscuits, brown gravy, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, double layer devil's food cake, butter cream frosting, cheese cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

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

Friday

Tortilla soup, minestrone soup, Beef Fajitas, chicken fajitas, chili con carne, 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

Navy celebrates 112 years of hospital corpsmen



Chief Simeon Cadavos, the oldest corpsman on the air station, and Seaman Apprentice Zachary Hallwood, the youngest corpsman on the air station, cut a cake in celebration of the 112th birthday of the Hospital Corpsmen at the south side mess hall here June 17. During the Spanish-American War, Congress approved a bill which created the naval rates of hospital apprentice, hospital apprentice first class and hospital steward on June 17, 1898, officially bringing the hospital corpsmen to birth.

got news?

Do you have an idea for a story or need coverage for an event?

We are here for you. Contact the Public Affairs office two weeks in advance by e-mail at iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216.



Andre Park, Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, rushes to complete the highest amount of crunches possible within a two-minute time frame during the Commander's Cup Endurance Challenge at the IronWorks Gym here June 18. Competitors were only given two-minute break periods while rotating between the five endurance stations.

MWSS-171 dominates endurance challenge

Lance Cpl. Marcel Brown
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors from units all around the air station gathered to compete in the Commander's Cup 2010 endurance challenge at the IronWorks Gym here June 18.

Coming in first place was Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 with a total of 1,622 total rep points.

Trailing very closely with MWSS-171 was Combat Logistics Company 36, placing second.

"It was a lot harder than I expected. Everything was pretty difficult," said Travis Eno, MWSS-171 competitor.

The event consisted of four rounds, in which one competitor from each unit rotated between five endurance work-out stations each round.

At each station, the competitors were given two minutes to do as many reps as they could per station and were given 30-minute breaks while rotating between stations.

At the end of the fourth round, the judges tallied up the total amount of reps for each competitor pumped out and a came up with a total number of reps per unit.

The unit with the highest amount of combined reps was determined the winner.

"Everyone starts strong, but not everyone finishes strong," said Anthony Baker, MWSS-171 competitor. "By the third or fourth event, you're pretty wiped out; there's not much left in the tank, and that's really how I think we won the event because we had the actual endurance to finish those last events strong." The five stations were balance ball

push-ups, crunches, dips, lunges and pull-ups.

If getting only a 30-second break between stations wasn't hard enough for the competitors, judges were posted at each station, ensuring the competitors were exercising proper form and completion.

Although the competitors from MWSS-171 were physically prepared for the competition, their primary strategy was to be mentally prepared for the competition as well.

"We strategized. It's always good to look over the rules before hand, said Baker.

"We tried to match strength for strength." By the end of the second round, the sign of exhaustion was obvious on the competitors who had already completed the five stations for the competition.

"All in all, it was a good high endurance competition. You have to train hard to do it," said Brian Reda, CLC-36 competitor.

"I think everyone put out all that they could."

The competitors left it all on the floor and gave it their best shot, but as far as future competitions, Baker said he encourages more Marines and sailors to participate in upcoming Commander's Cup events.

"It gives you a chance to meet people who wouldn't meet otherwise, and it provides that camaraderie on base," said Travis Eno, MWSS-171 competitor. "You'd be amazed how many friends you can find through just friendly competition on base."

For more information on future Commander's Cup events and base activities, contact the health promotions office at 253-6359.



Anthony Baker, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 chaplain, performs a maximum set of dips during the Commander's Cup Endurance Challenge at the IronWorks Gym here June 18.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Jayson Tangco, guard for Fil-Am, rushes around D.J. Wright, guard for the Ready Group, during a semifinal basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here June 17. The final score read 19-18 in favor of Fil-Am when the game was called with just 46.2 seconds left in the first half.

Fil-Am win semi-finals, move on to Championships



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Jon Hipolito, Fil-Am guard, dribbles around William Chatman, power forward for the Ready Group, during the semifinal basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here June 17.

Lance Cpl. Jennifer Pirante
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Fil-Am took down the Ready Group after two periods of play during the semi-final basketball game at IronWorks Gym here June 17.

The final score read 19-18 in favor of Fil-Am when the game was called with just 46.2 seconds left in the first half due to a third technical foul.

The Ready Group, received the first technical early on and Jayson Tangco, guard for Fil-Am, took the foul shots.

The second technical foul was called on the Ready Group once again when they tried to dispute a call the referee made when the ball went out of bounds.

Drevonn Fluellen, point guard for Fil-Am, and Paul Torres, wing for the Ready Group, were both going for the ball as it went out of bounds.

The loose ball went out of play where the official clearly made his judgment on the play in favor of Fil-Am.

With 46.2 seconds left on the clock, another referee noticed a player with the Ready Group had shorts with pockets, which is considered an equipment safety violation and against game regulations.

This earned the Ready Group their third and final technical foul.

Due to the three technical rule, the Ready Group was forced to forfeit the game, which guaranteed Fil-Am a shot at the championships.

"I hate that we won the game like

that," said Jimmie King, power forward for Fil-Am. "But you gotta play by the rules."

Both teams have done exceptionally well during the intramural basketball playoffs pulling victories out of close games.

The Ready Group entered the semifinals after they defeated the Goon Squad in the first game of the playoffs 49-36 and went on to stop the Sho Stoppaz 55-34 in the quarter-finals.

Fil-Am was also doing well through out the tournament.

Fil-Am defeated the IYAOYAS 36-25 during the playoffs, advancing to the quarter finals where they would go up against Da FAM.

"We came together as a team, came out and hustled," said King.

Even though the IYAOYAS put up a good fight, Fil-Am was able to tighten their defense and keep them from scoring.

"We played excellent defense," said Fluellen. "They could not stop our defense."

Fil-Am went on to defeat Da-FAM 39-31 during the quarter finals.

"It was close the whole game but we ended up taking it," said King.

"They played tough during the first half but during the second half, we stepped up our game," said Jordan Kroell.

Now, with one more win against the Ready Group, Fil-Am has secured their spot in the championship game against the Sho Stoppaz Monday.