

Crime Scent

Marines fight crime with man's best friend | P. 4

BOOM Boxes

Ordnance technicians load more than pallets | P. 5

You got served!

CLC-36 takes lead in commander's cup | P. 11

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 4 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

MALS-12 Marines visit Japanese elementary schoolLANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 volunteered to visit a Japanese kindergarten class at Marifu Hoikuen Elementary School to play and teach English Jan. 21.

The children, barefoot and in matching uniforms, sat patiently as they awaited the Marine's arrival.

As the Marines entered the classroom, the children's eyes brightened and their smiles grew from ear to ear.

"The children are always so excited by the time we get into the classroom," said Cpl. Marcie McWaters, MALS-12 community relations coordinator.

The volunteers had a planned schedule with interactive learning activities designed to help the students practice and learn English.

Both the volunteers and students sang the "Good Morning" song in English. After the song concluded, the volunteers introduced themselves individually.

The hourlong class was packed with different learning activities. It focused not only on teaching the children but also making sure they had fun.

The first learning objective was a counting game. Volunteers used flash cards with



Lance Cpl. Gerald Morales, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 air framer, hugs two kindergartners from the Marifu Hoikuen Elementary School after playing with and teaching the children English during a community relations event Jan. 21. The hourlong class was packed with different learning activities.

numbers, and the children called out, as loud as they could, the correct numbers from one to 15.

These activities continued with flash cards that had other things on them, like animals and letters from the English alphabet.

They also played a color-coordination game. Random students in the class were given different colored beanbags, and the colors were

then called out. The students with that color stood up, and the rest of the class counted the number of children with the corresponding colored beanbags in English.

The last classroom activity was a shape-association game. Volunteers held flashcards with different shapes on them in separate

SEE **SCHOOL** ON PAGE 3

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 gets ready to launch a CH-53D Sea Stallion in support of Lava Viper 2011 here Jan 12. The CH-53D Sea Stallion is a heavy-lift transport helicopter used for assault support during exercises and Marine Aircraft Group 24 operations.

HMH-363: Hawaii's helo hussarsLANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 363, stationed at Marine Corps Air Facility Koneohe Bay, Hawaii, is part of Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Equipped with some of the Marine Corps' most powerful heavy-lift cargo helicopters, HMH-363 is able to provide Marines on the ground with the equipment and supplies needed to accomplish their mission.

HMH-363 first deployed in 1965 to engage in combat missions during Vietnam.

During Operation Flying Tiger, the squadron developed a strong, positive relationship with the Republic of Korea.

Out of respect for the squadron, Korean Marines presented an award to HMH-363, and the squadron came to be known as the Lucky Red Lions.

Immediately after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, HMH-363 reestablished the West Pacific Unit Deployment Program and became the first helicopter squadron to deploy to Iwakuni, Japan in more than 10 years.

After numerous deployments and to support Operation Iraqi

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Let go and let God take charge'

CMDR. DEAN L. HOELZ
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

I really enjoy the travel that the military offers, but I sure don't enjoy the packing and unpacking. When I arrive at a new duty station, it's always the same routine. The movers drop off all my stuff and my quarters are once again cluttered with boxes stacked upon each other. Each PCS (permanent change of station) reminds me, I have too many boxes. With each move, I tell myself "this can't all be mine," but I know the little red or yellow sticker the movers place on each box says otherwise. How did I ever accumulate so much stuff?

Amid the maze of boxes I opened was one that I had not looked into since 1976! As I looked through the material, I'd forgotten why I ever wanted to save the strange assortment of items, which include some old pictures of people I didn't recognize, rocks

I'd collected from somewhere and empty containers. After looking through my eclectic collection, I decide it was time to throw out that old box and its contents; that was only the beginning. Other boxes of junk have made their way to the dumpster.

This recent move reminds me that I have a tendency to hang on to things too long and frequently the things I hold on to often aren't good for me in the first place. You could say I came to Iwakuni with a lot of baggage. Sometimes in life, it's hard to know what to let go and what to keep.

My best friend Ted keeps it simple for me. He loves to say to me, "let go, and let God." He usually tells me this when I've come to him complaining about something or someone. He reminds me that when I'm upset or restless, it's usually because I'm holding onto something, such as a resentment, hurt feeling or nurturing a grudge toward someone. When I hold on

to such things, it's like having stacks of useless boxes cluttering up my house. Holding onto my boxes packed full of resentments, worrying about issues that I have no control over, or remembering every wrong someone has done to me, only clutters my mind and heart with boxes of junk, leaving little room for anything else, much less God.

"Letting go and letting God," means I don't have to haul around unnecessary baggage anymore unless I want to; I can give it to God. When I let go of the clutter in my life, I create space not just for me, but also for others. When I let go of bitterness, then there is room for kindness. When I let go of my selfishness, then there is room for self-giving. When I let go of my long list of wrongs others have done me, then there is room for forgiveness. When I let go and let God, there is finally room for God's love in my once cluttered life.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) begins Monday

Where: Building 608 at the Staff Judge Advocate's office

Hours of operation: Mondays through Fridays' from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

By appointment only: Saturdays in February (5, 12, 19, 26 only) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. by appointment only - Deadline: April 15th

***** Today is only for single Marines and sailors*****

For the past year, tax filers need to bring the following information at a minimum:

- Proof of a valid Social Security Number for both the tax filer and all dependants claimed on this year's tax return
- W-2 (wage and tax statement)

The following documents should be brought if applicable:

- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks earned on savings or checking accounts)
- Child care expenses
- Records reflecting spousal or child support payments
- Mortgage interest statement
- Individual retirement account (IRA) contributions
- Dividends, interest, capital gains and losses from the sale of stocks, bonds or property
- Charitable contribution records
- Electronic tax filers need to bring their savings or checking account routing number to have refunds electronically deposited

To ensure a prompt refund, file as early as possible.

Any questions, please contact the Tax Center at 253-3540 or 253-4398.



Interested in becoming a DJ?

You could rock the club and enjoy all the night time parties that Club Iwakuni has to offer! If you are interested in becoming a DJ, call MCGS Productions at 253-3727 for details.

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

areas of the room, and when a specific shape was called out, the children raced to the volunteer holding the shape, grabbed onto them and quickly turned around and took a stance to the next shape.

"It was like a race to see who could hug me first," said Lance Cpl. Gerald Morales, a MALS-12 airframer. "They were so much fun." Before leaving for the day, the volunteers had one more game to play. The students raced outside to play some duck-duck-goose. The students were eager to pick a volunteer almost every time. As they said goodbye to one another, the children embraced the

volunteers and jumped to give them high-fives.

"The kids bombarded me," said Cpl. Julian Jones, a MALS-12 aircraft maintenance administration specialist. "The absolutely loved that we were there."

MALS-12 hosts community relations events three to five times a month and has approximately 10 volunteers for each event.

"Only three of us came out for this one, which is unusual," said McWaters. "But once the summer months hit, there will be more volunteers, and I encourage as many Marines to sign-up as possible." Some of the upcoming community relations events include visiting local schools and participating in local clean-ups.

VMFA(AW)-533 splits force, accomplishes two missions



HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 gets ready to launch an F/A-18D Hornet here Jan. 19 in support of Lava Viper 11.1. The mission of Lava Viper 11.1 is to provide close air support to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines while simultaneously enhancing and sustaining Marine Aircraft Group 24's combat readiness, war-fighting capabilities and competencies.

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Marines of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 arrived at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii in support of Lava Viper 11.1 Jan. 16.

Lava viper is a bi-annual, pre-Afghanistan deployment exercise implemented to establish unit cohesion and squadron readiness in a forward deployed environment.

The mission of Lava Viper 11.1 is to provide close air support to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines

while simultaneously enhancing and sustaining Marine Aircraft Group 24's combat readiness, war-fighting capabilities, and competencies.

"Our main goal is just to provide 3rd Marines with a professional fixed-wing platform so they can get the best training possible," said Capt. Seth Byrum, VMFA(AW)-533 F/A-18D Hornet pilot. "When (3rd Marines) get deployed, they will know what to expect out of (Tactical Air Command) and they will be the best prepared."

Once the jets landed, the primary focus of VMFA(AW)-533 was to perform maintenance

checks on the birds in order to prepare for the tedious flight schedules to come.

The squadron split its force in half to allow six jets to advance to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan in support of the Unit Deployment Program.

The Unit Deployment Program is a program implemented to allow units to deploy to various locations throughout the Western Pacific and participate in exercises with international allied forces.

Meanwhile, six of the squadron's most operationally ready jets were kept behind to participate in the exercise.

According to 2nd Lt. John Koch, MAG-24 adjutant, VMFA(AW)-533's participation in the exercise was vital to the accomplishment of the mission.

"MAG-24 was very adamant that the fixed-wing assets were a necessity," said Koch. "If we're going to do this exercise, we're going to get the maximum benefit out of it by getting everyone involved."

In order for 3rd Marines to take full advantage of every training opportunity available to them, the exercise would simply demand VMFA(AW)-533's expertise and close air support capabilities.

"We want to make sure our Marines and sailors in MAG-24

are understanding the necessity of every principle that has been set for this exercise," said Koch. "Not only do the Marines need to see that we are supporting the infantry, but at the end of the day, they're getting real world, deployed environment training."

According to Cpl. Denon Cammatao, aircraft communication, navigation and weapon systems technician with VMFA(AW)-533, splitting the squadron in half brought on the task of delegating its prime skilled Marines to appropriate locations where the squadron would need them most.

These types of exercises aren't new to Cammatao, however, as he has been with the squadron for nearly three years to date.

According to Cammatao, it's all about showing the new guys the ropes and how to take care of the job under various circumstances.

"I'm mainly looking forward to working with the new Marines and seeing how they improve in a more intense environment," said Cammatao.

After VMFA(AW)-533 has wrapped up training and operations, the Hornet squadron has a long deployment ahead of it with many goals in mind.

"We're looking forward to getting more experience and more flight time as we support the UDP and MAG-12 operations," said Bryum.

VMFA(AW)-533 is slated to join their squadron in Iwakuni, Japan for future exercises.

HELICOPTER FROM PAGE 1

Freedom, the squadron continued to launch CH-53D Sea Stallions to support the Global War on Terror by participating in Lava Viper 2011.

Lava Viper is an annual pre-Afghanistan deployment exercise implemented to establish unit cohesion and squadron readiness in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The exercise is designed to replicate Mojave Viper scenarios for Marine Corps aviation forces in the Western Pacific.

The mission of HMH-363 is primarily to provide assault support aviation services to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, deployed to Pohakuloa Training Area, while simultaneously enhancing and sustaining MAG-24's combat readiness, war-fighting capabilities and competencies.

"The operational tempo is certainly high right now," said Capt. Olaitan Adesanya, HMH-363 pilot. "Fortunately, we haven't had a lot of setbacks."

According to Master Sgt. Kenneth McFadden, maintenance chief with HMH-363, supporting the Marines on the ground is vital to helping them get the qualifications they need during

the exercise.

HMH-363 Marines are also slated to begin defensive squadron training to include practice with weapons on the ground.

"Besides supporting the infantry, which is our primary focus, we have our own training we are trying to accomplish during those two weeks at Lava Viper," said Maj. Jeremy Deveau, maintenance officer with HMH-363.

According to Deveau, the training will build leadership and enhance training among the squadron.

In order to accomplish its mission, the squadron focuses primarily on working as a team.

"(Personnel) have to have a very good crew concept to function together," said McFadden. "It takes different personalities and different ranks to work together."

According to Adesanya, this task of working as a team has been met with great satisfaction. "The Marines in the squadron are great," said Adesanya. "They have been working hard and making sure we get the aircraft up and flying."

According to Pfc. Joel Hancock, helicopter mechanic with HMH-363, working with the squadron has been a beneficial experience.

As a new member of the squadron, Hancock's main goal has been to learn as much as he can about his job and the responsibilities he will be tasked with.

"We try to find more experienced Marines to take us around the birds and help us with our qualifications," said Hancock. "The more knowledge, the better."

According to Deveau, what makes their squadron unique is not just the squadron itself but the aircraft it flies.

HMH-363 flies the Sikorsky CH-53D Sea Stallion, equipped with twin-engines and the ability to lift 7 tons.

According to Hancock, their training has already prepared them for changes.

The third engine and seven-blade main rotor of the CH-53E Super Stallion makes it a more powerful aircraft, he said.

"It's pretty fascinating," said Hancock. "There's a lot more technology and three of everything."

The CH-53E can transport up to 55 troops or 30,000 pounds of cargo. Its external lift capability is 36,000 pounds. This means more cargo lift capability, more power and more mission readiness for the squadron.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Lance Cpl. Seth P. Stringham, a military working dog handler, shakes hands with K-9 partner Cpl. Maxi J232 at the kennel here Tuesday. Simple commands, like shaking hands, reinforce the training K-9 teams go through so they can rely on each other on patrol.

Devil dogs, K-9s work to take bite out of crime

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The old saying a dog is a man's best friend takes on a different meaning to Marine military working dog handlers than just a four-legged friend to play catch with. These canines and their human partners go through tough training, long deployments and long workdays to keep their bases and stations safe and secure. The Marine dog handlers here are no different.

The handler teams do exercises as often as they can said Pfc. Cody J. Bell, a military working dog handler.

"Whether it be detection training, patrol training or basic obedience, we train to advance ourselves individually and as a team," Bell said.

Bell has only been on station a short time, and Lance Cpl. Ronny J348 is Bell's first MWD.

"I have been working with Ronny for about a month now," Bell said. "At first he wanted to eat me, but he's a teddy bear with me now. To get to that point, I spent a lot of time with

Ronny, training and just hanging around him."

Over time and during deployments, a handler and his dog grow closer. Deployments affect the dogs too.

"A dog's behavior may change after a deployment as he will experience most of the stuff that the handler does," said Cpl. Jonathon M. Skordos, the PMO MWD chief trainer.

The dogs can become scared of loud noises, closed spaces, or they may not like people dressed a certain way.

A dog can suffer post-traumatic stress disorder just as a human can," said Cpl. Shaun M. Sands, a military working dog handler. "If a dog had a bad experience with an explosion or gun fire, it can have such a negative affect that any time that dog hears a loud noise he can shut down because he remembers it from the past."

Even though dogs can suffer from the same effects after deployments, the dogs can also display the same heroism.

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey S. Canary, a military working dog handler started with a new dog

when he first got here. Now he is the partner of the most senior and decorated dog in the kennel, Staff Sgt. Youry E235.

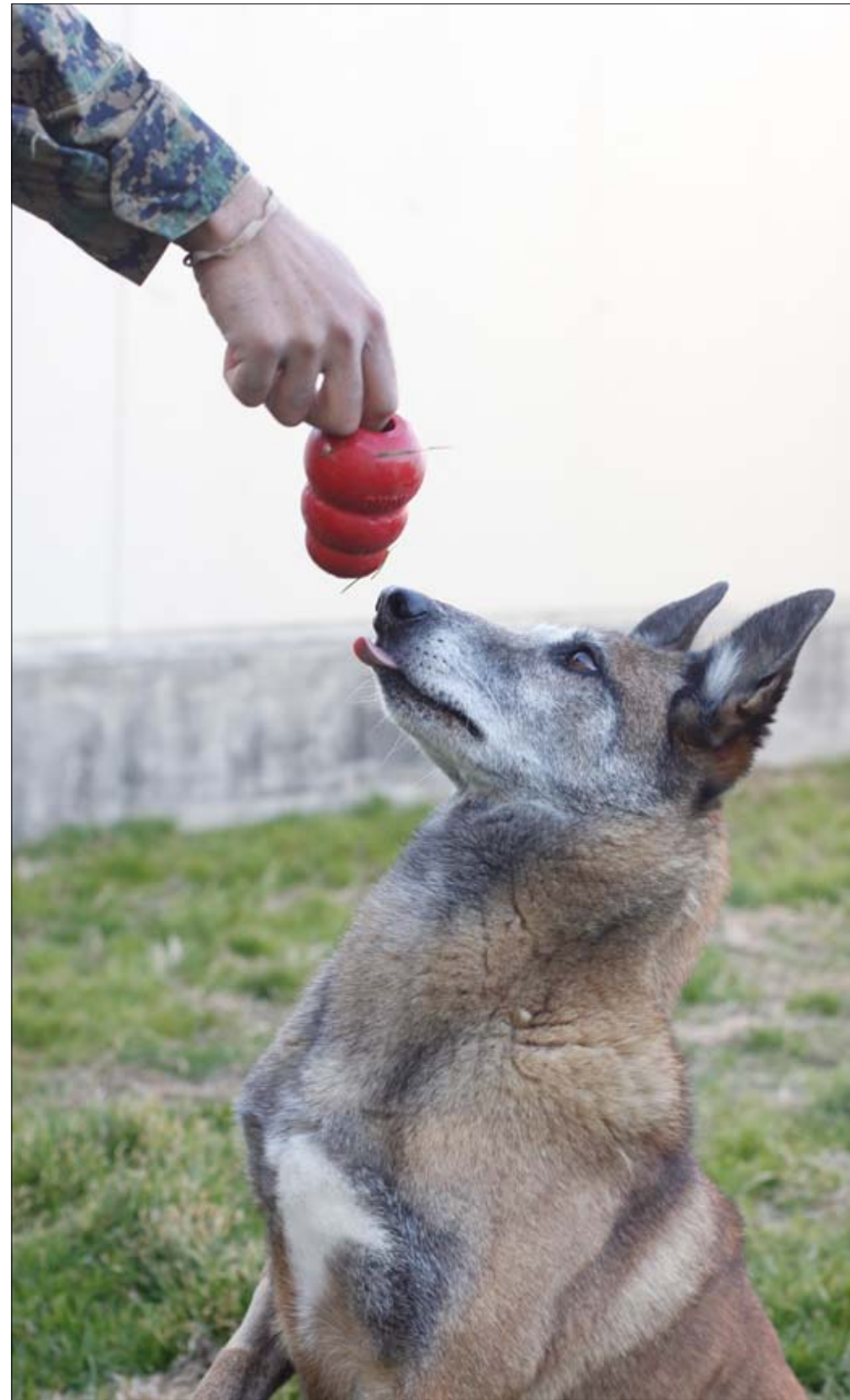
"Youry has earned more medals and ribbons than many Marines do in their career," Canary said.

Youry has the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal with two bronze stars.

The journey from a new handler to being a part of an experienced team is a long road for the PMO military working dog handlers. The relationships that grow between the handler and the dog need to be closer than the tightest squad going out into a war zone and as loving as any person is of their four-legged best friend.

"As an MWD team, the handler and the dog build a close relationship, both personally and professionally," said Bell. "We need to be efficient and get the job done, so it is important that you trust your MWD and your MWD trusts you."

At the end of the day, the handlers know that their dogs will have their back anytime.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Lance Cpl. Seth P. Stringham, a military working dog handler, plays with K-9 partner Cpl. Maxi J232 at the kennel here Tuesday. Giving the dogs treats during play time helps the dogs follow and obey the commands of their handlers.

Arming, disarming aircraft, Ordnance faces challenges

PFC. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

As a pilot of an F/A-18 flies over the region of attack, he puts his hand on the firing mechanism, pushes the red button to send a signal through the electrical system of the aircraft to the ordnance, which is then released and sent to the target area.

This would not be possible were it not for the squadron ordnance Marines.

The ordnance team's main job is to arm the aircraft as it launches and to disarm the aircraft after it lands.

They are also responsible for maintenance, testing and troubleshooting and prepping the aircraft to launch, said Lance Cpl. Perry Braun Jr., aircraft ordnance technician with VMFA(AW)-225.

The ordnance team has several positions.

"You have your team member who does the work, the team leader who directs the team member, and the quality assurance/safety observer who oversees the ordnance evolution," said Cpl. Phillip Roberts, aircraft ordnance technician with VMFA(AW)-225.

This job is extremely dangerous; and the publications the ordnance Marines follow are written in blood, said Warrant Officer Richard Lopez, ordnance officer with VMFA(AW)-225.

In order to get things right, lessons from the past must be applied to the present.

"Each individual has to be certified and qualified to handle ordnance, first of all, and then to load it they have to be certified and qualified," said Lopez.

There are many safety procedures and precautions in place in any shop; however, when it comes to a dangerous job like ordnance, safety is paramount.

"We have a lot of safety procedures in place to keep people from getting injured," said Gunnery Sgt. William Payne, the aviation ordnance chief of VMFA(AW)-225.

The safety precautions taken, when ordnance is concerned, are the most important part of the process.

"We have certain billets that are filled, we have checklists and publications, and we have knowledge," said Braun.

When people are involved, safety is a huge deal.

Before the aircraft can leave the ground, the ordnance team must check over the electrical systems to ensure the ordnance will work properly.

While the ordnance Marines are busy with keeping safe and out of harm's way, yet still trying to get the job done, their stress levels vary.

When the machines aren't cooperating the way they should be and there is not a sufficient amount of people to do the job, it can be stressful, said Braun.

The ordnance team has many tasks they have to get done to get the bombs and aircraft prepped.

They are in a dangerous and stressful job, yet they are out there doing it daily.

Were it not for the ordnance team, the pilots would not be able to push that little red button to send an electrical signal to the ordnance and releasing to the elimination of targets.



PFC. CAYCE NEVERS

Marines from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 ordnance wait for the aircraft to stop so they can secure the ordnance that here put on the aircraft during the Wolmi-Do Fury exercise here Dec. 2, 2010. The ordnance Marines are placed with the job of prepping, arming, disarming and loading the ordnance onto the aircraft when the aircraft is needed to be armed and ready.



PFC. CAYCE NEVERS

Lance Cpl. Eddie Hernandez (left), Lance Cpl. Herman Soriano (middle) and Lance Cpl. Nick Simon (right), Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 ordnance technicians, move a test rocket to an aircraft during the Wolmi-Do Fury exercise here Dec. 2, 2010. The ordnance Marines move, load, arm, and disarm the bombs during exercises, training, day-to-day launches and other occasions when ordnance is called for.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr., a station combat correspondent, struggles to count the fingers in front of him after being sprayed in the face with Oleoresin Capsicum spray during an OC course at the Provost Marshal's Office here Jan. 20. The training noncommissioned-officer who sprayed the service members in the face with OC forced them to count his fingers to ensure the liquid took effect.

OC course builds confidence, ability to fight through burning pain

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Approximately 20 service members with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron participated in two-day Auxiliary Security Force training at the Provost Marshal's Office here Jan. 19 and 20.

The Marines and sailors received their certification in an oleoresin capsicum course during the climax of the ASF training.

During the course, the service members were sprayed in the face with OC spray, fought through the burning sensation, and battled through an obstacle course.

"No one gets used to OC, but (the course teaches) them how to fight through the effects," said Staff Sgt. Bryce Good, the PMO non-lethal weapons instructor during the ASF training. After the course, they won't be caught off guard if sprayed and will be able to accomplish their mission, he added.

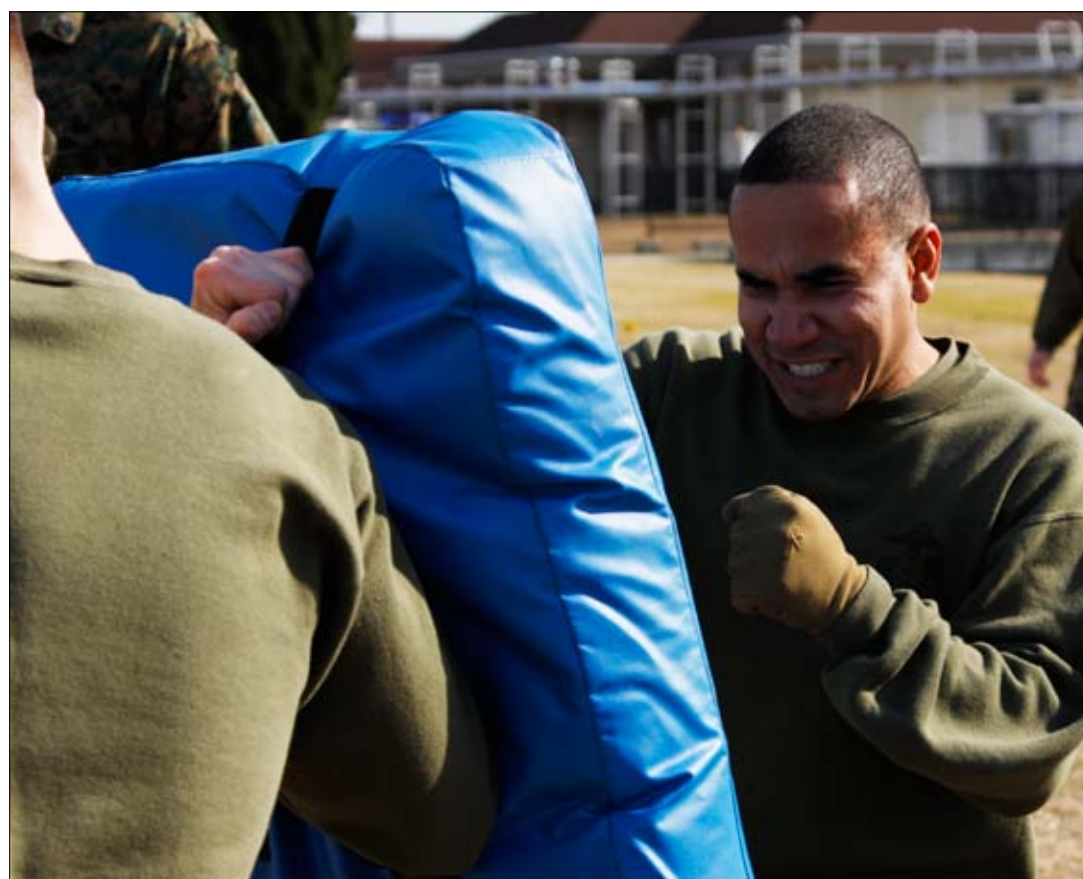
The pain-filled yells and screams of the service members echoed through the streets around PMO as the OC flamed in their eyes.

One by one the Marines and sailors battled his/her way through the fire and raged against punching pads while blindly holding off attackers.

"It burned," said Pfc. Manuel Valencia-Cantu, a station preservation packaging and packing clerk. "At first it tasted really sweet. I was thinking this isn't so bad, then before I got to the first pad it was burning, burning really bad."

Valencia-Cantu said he now feels confident he can effectively fight his way through a confrontation involving OC spray.

The Auxiliary Security Force training is done quarterly to prepare Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron service members in the event they are called upon to aid military police in providing security.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Luis Zabala, station Section 3 clerk, viciously pounds his fists into a punching pad during an Oleoresin Capsicum course at the Provost Marshal's Office here Jan. 20. While some Marines and sailors found it hard to overcome the burning sensation of the OC spray, others were able use the pain to their advantage.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Staff Sgt. Bryce Good, a Provost Marshal's Office non-lethal weapons instructor, assumes the position he takes when ready to douse the face of service members with oleoresin capsicum spray at PMO here Jan. 20. While OC is considered non-lethal, the fiery sensation it has on the eyes, lungs and skin effectively shocks an attacker.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Pfc. Samuel Jordan, a station food service specialist, knees a punching pad during an oleoresin capsicum course at the Provost Marshal's Office here Jan. 20. The participating service members were required to effectively attack and defend themselves during the obstacle course after being sprayed in the eyes with OC spray.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Cpl. Melissa Yocum, a Provost Marshal's Office training noncommissioned officer, helps lead Pvt. Baaron Knox, a station food service specialist, away to a clearing after completing an oleoresin capsicum course at PMO here Jan. 20. After completing the course, service members were required to walk around in a circle until the burning sensation abated.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Pfc. Manuel Valencia-Cantu, a station preservation packaging and packing clerk, gets a full spray of oleoresin capsicum during a training evolution at the Provost Marshal's Office here Jan. 20.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



COMBAT OUTPOST RANKEL, Afghanistan — A Marine with Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment posts security after a helicopter-borne insert here Jan. 14. Marines of E Co, 2/1 conducted a three-day clearing operation in Durzay.

Marines drive insurgents out of Afghan village

1ST LT. ALEX H. LIM
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 1

COMBAT OUTPOST RANKEL, Afghanistan — The CH-53 began a slow, downward loop descending to a muddy field when the word was passed.

“Hot LZ!” announced the pilot, denoting the presence of enemy fighters in his landing zone.

With smiles on their faces and weapons loaded, the Marines of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment commenced Operation Godfather, a three-day clearing operation in Durzay, Jan. 14.

Since early 2009, Marines from Regimental Combat Teams 7 and 1 have steadily pushed the Taliban south, driving them out of small villages and bazaars they had been using to stage attacks and consolidate supplies for their campaign of fear and intimidation.

With reports of more than 30 suspected enemy insurgents, Durzay, which is located at the Southern tip of Helmand Province, was one of the last Taliban safe havens in the area. The purpose of operation Godfather was to push the Taliban out of the remaining enclave, limiting their freedom of movement and removing them from the population center.

The expectant Marines knew of the enemy and improvised explosive device threats awaiting them.

“During the clear, we had numerous IED cache finds and opium cache seizures,” said 1st Lt. Shannon Ashley, a platoon commander with Echo Company, 2/1.

Within the first hour on the ground, Ashley’s platoon alone found four IEDs and an opium cache.

Durzay, which is vast and relatively flat with clusters of compounds spread throughout, provides visibility from a great distance. Here, the Taliban uses remotely-controlled IEDs, which can be triggered by insurgents observing from afar.

“Terrain dictates the type of IEDs emplaced by the enemy,” said Gunnery Sgt. Erik Swanson, 1st Explosive Ordnance Detachment.

Swanson added that the findings from Durzay were no different from the average findings in Echo Company’s area of operation. Echo has been 2/1’s most active company in uncovering IEDs, accounting for more than 90 percent of the battalion’s finds.

Ashley’s platoon cleared from the Durzay bazaar to Saidon, hiking approximately a kilometer across muddy farmland. Along the way, they gathered census data of each compound and information on other potential IED threats.

“(Census data) allows us to know who we’re talking to and gives us face-time with the locals,” said Ashley.

According to Ashley, the face time will payoff, eventually leading to a trusting relationship between coalition forces and the local nationals. Not to mention, the correct topics will get addressed when 2/1 conducts shuras with the locals in the near future, he said.

The operation in Durzay, considered the last real village in Central Helmand province before the Pakistan border, leaves the Taliban with few places to go in South-Central

Helmand.

With spring a few months away, coalition forces hope to consolidate their gains. The spring, historically a time of renewed insurgent activity in Afghanistan, will be the true measure of success for Afghan National Army soldiers and Marines in the area.



COMBAT OUTPOST RANKEL, Afghanistan — A Marine and Afghan soldier prepare to clear a building in the Durzay bazaar Jan. 14. Marines of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and Afghan soldiers of 1st Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps conducted a three-day clearing operation in Durzay.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Operation Comfort Care
Marine Corps Family Team Building is collecting donations at Yujo Hall. Donation can be dropped off from 7:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. To volunteer or for more information, call 253-3542 or visit www.mccsvolunteering.org.

Free Child Development Screening
Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will be holding a free child development screening for children 4-60 months on Feb. 23 and 24 at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School. A Child specialist will answer questions and screen five major areas of child development. For more information, schedule an appointment with EDIS at 253-4562.

Mothers of Preschoolers Volunteer Opportunities
MOPS is looking for volunteers to work with our MOPPETS ages 0-5 years old. MOPPETS is the children’s program for MOPS. If you enjoy working with children and would like to help, contact Michele at 253-2031.

Station Tax Center
The Station Tax Center,

located in Building 608 (SJA side), is scheduled to be open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. beginning Tuesday and by appointment only every Saturday in the month of February. The Tax Center will begin taking appointments on Jan. 31. For more information, call 253-5951, 253-3540, 253-5591, 253-5962.

Matthew C. Perry Varsity Cheer Clinic
There is a \$20 varsity cheer clinic for 1st through 8th grade children scheduled 2:45 p.m. - 5 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10. Cheerleaders will perform Feb. 11 at the high school homecoming game. To sign up or for more information, visit or call the Matthew C. Perry Elementary or High School office.

DeCA Sponsored 2011 Scholarships for Military Children Program
Scholarship applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online at <http://www.commissaries.com> — choose the “News & Info” tab and then the “Scholarship Info” tab. Applications are also available at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Applications and any essays must be turned in to the Commissary by close of business Feb. 22. For more information, call the DeCA department at 253-4873.

Vehicles

1997 Honda SMX Wagon
JCI good until April 2012. Asking \$3,000. Car is in excellent condition and maintained regularly. For more information, call 253-6242, 090-649-0498 or e-mail Sean at seangkimhan@hotmail.com.

1999 Harley Davidson Road King
JCI good until July 2012. Asking \$13,000. Motorcycle is well maintained with lots of upgrades. For more information, call 253-6242, 090-649-0498 or e-mail seangkimhan@hotmail.com.

Jobs

WIC Overseas Iwakuni
Choctaw Archiving Enterprise has a full-time job for a Certified Professional Authority nurse, nutritionist, or registered dietitian in the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program in Iwakuni. Position requires a BS in Nutrition, Nursing, or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal, or infant nutrition preferred. Must have references, U.S. citizenship, U.S. driver’s license and Status of Forces Agreement status. Employment conditional upon satisfactory

background check. Please e-mail resume and cover letter to: virginia.johnson.ctr@misawa.af.mil or fax to 226-9585.

Exchange New Car Sales
New Car Sales has high income potential jobs available for Status of Forces Agreement personnel. Sales training will be provided. For more information, call 080-3243-4689.

English Teacher
An English teacher is needed to take over a class in downtown Iwakuni. For more information call 253-7716.

CATV/Internet Installer
Americable International Japan, Inc. is now accepting applications for CATV/Internet Installer and Installer Technician positions here. Applications and resume may be sent to resume@americablejapan.com.

Travel Counselor
CWTSatoTravel has a travel counselor position available at the government travel office here. This position is responsible for booking air, car and hotel reservations for military travelers in official duty status using the SABRE CRS. Knowledge of government travel regulations, SABRE CRs, travel agency or airline experience is recommended. Please

send all inquiries and resumes to mkenat@cwtsatottravel.com. No phone inquiries please.

Miscellaneous

Maytag Washing Machine
Large capacity, quiet-pack, heavy duty, seven-cycle washing machine. Purchased in 2003. Very good condition. Must sell by Feb. 6. Asking \$75 OBO. For more information, please call 253-2861 or 080-3311-4777.

Brief and Classified Submissions
To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, 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 may submit your brief or classified ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. However you choose to submit, ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert

A free concert featuring Matthew C. Perry, Iwakuni municipal Higashi junior high school and Iwakuni municipal Kawashimo junior high school is scheduled for 3 p.m. Jan. 30 at Sinfonia Iwakuni Concert Hall.

Doors are scheduled to open at 2 p.m.

Public transportation is recommended to avoid traffic congestion.

For more information, call 082-223-7153.

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 of projected publication date for review by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216.

INFOTAINMENT

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
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy Communion Service (Small Chapel)
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.

Funny photo of the week



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Think you can write a good caption for this photo? Do you have your own funny photo to submit? Submit your ideas or photos to the Public Affairs Office by e-mailing them to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, calling 253-5551 or submitting your idea in person at the office in Building 1 Room 216. Entries will be judged by the Iwakuni Approach Staff and the top selection will run in the next edition of the Iwakuni Approach.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, January 28, 2011

7 p.m. Burlesque (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Love and Other Drugs (R)
Premier

Saturday, January 29, 2011

1 p.m. Tron: Legacy (PG)
4 p.m. True Grit (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Next 3 Days (PG-13)

Sunday, January 30, 2011

1 p.m. Tangled (PG)
4 p.m. Burlesque (PG-13)
7 p.m. Love and Other Drugs (R)

Monday, January 31, 2011

7 p.m. Skyline (PG-13)
The Last Showing

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

7 p.m. Morning Glory (PG-13)
The Last Showing

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

7 p.m. True Grit (PG-13)

Thursday, February 3, 2011

7 p.m. Burlesque (PG-13)

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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of broccoli soup, French-onion soup, baked chicken and rice, Yakiniiku steak and vegetables, steamed rice, lyonnaise green beans, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, standard salad bar, peanut-butter cookies, chocolate cream pie with whipped topping and double layer banana cake with butter cream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Minestrone soup, tomato soup, roast fresh ham, shrimp scampi, potatoes au gratin, rice pilaf, glazed carrots, broccoli combo, grilled cheese, potato salad, Italian-style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake with butter cream frosting and coconut pie.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Chicken and rice soup, New England clam chowder, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, grilled ham and cheese, tempura-fried fish, macaroni and cheese, oven-glow potatoes, broccoli polonaise, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spring salad, chocolate drop cookies, double-layer Florida lemon cake with lemon butter cream frosting and blueberry pie.
Specialty Bar: Barbecue

Thursday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of potato soup, apple-glazed corn beef, teriyaki chicken, rissole potatoes, noodles Jefferson, succotash, fried cabbage, hot mustard sauce, chicken gravy, cornbread, potato salad, German-style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, yellow cake with butter cream frosting and chocolate cream pie with whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday

Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, shrimp creole, beef cordon bleu, herbed broccoli, lemon-baked fish, parsley-buttered potatoes, steamed rice, carrots, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double-layer German chocolate cake with coconut cream frosting and pumpkin-pie with whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Michael Salinas (left), Combat Logistics Company 36 volleyball player, throws up both hands while leaping in anticipation of Matthew Lowry's, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 volleyball player, spike during the Commander's Cup Volleyball Single Elimination Challenge at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21. Salinas proved critical to CLC-36's comeback against MALS-12 in the championship match.

Commander's Cup: CLC-36 spikes home 1st place start

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Combat Logistics Company 36 bumped Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 25-20 to take first place in the Commander's Cup Volleyball Single Elimination Challenge at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21.

CLC-36 took second place overall in last year's Commander's Cup, but it has captured an early first place lead with 30 points for the cup's first event.

"(Second place) was good," said CLC-36's 1st Sgt. Michael Pritchard. "We're one of the smallest units on base and we go on a lot of deployments. So we're not always here for the Commander's Cup events."

"You can't complain with a second place," he added.

In the first round of the volleyball challenge, CLC-36 crushed Marine Aircraft Group 12.

CLC's second round was not nearly so easy. Operations fought fiercely, forcing CLC to earn the "W" 29-27.

Meanwhile, MALS-12 barely scraped by the Branch Health Clinic in round one.

By round two against Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, the MALS-12 players had tightened their game up and spiked past Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron to setup the final bout.

"We just needed to relax, take time and realize what we needed to do," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Lowry, MALS-12 player and 15-year volleyball veteran.

In the final round, the MALS-12 players were much more fluid as a team. They set the ball more effectively and took an early 4-0 lead.

CLC pushed back, but MALS-12 continued to maintain a 3-point lead until about 12 points.

The key for CLC-36 came in the adjustments. Initially Lowry was catching CLC's players off guard with his devastating spikes.

The slinky effect of the score was caused by

the positioning of MALS-12's players.

Subtle shifting of CLC's players allowed them to more effectively handle Lowry's spikes.

By the time MALS-12 had 14 points, CLC had gone on a tear.

CLC closed the gap and tied the game at 14-14, prompting MALS-12 to take a timeout.

At this point, the primarily CLC-36 crowd was roaring and on its feet. With nearly 40 people chanting for CLC-36, the momentum had swung definitively in CLC's favor.

"The crowds really what kinda helped make the game," said Lowry. "When you can't hear your own teammates you gotta do what you gotta do."

The MALS-12 players did their best to operate effectively despite the howling crowd, but in the end they were unable to ever retake the lead.

Near the end, CLC had positioned Michael Salinas to combat the spiking Lowry.

To hear Salinas describe it made the job sound easy.

"They just told me to go ahead and block his shots and that's what I did," said Salinas.

Salinas knocked three of Lowry's spikes right back onto the MALS-12 side for points.

Each time the crowd erupted like Vesuvius.

Both Pritchard and Salinas said the unit is highly supportive of its sports teams and this, this was no different.

At 24-20, "This is game point," echoed through the gym burying, forcing all other sound out.

MALS-12 would not score again: the crowd had seized the moment with the voracity of a lion on a wounded gazelle.

CLC-36 wrapped it up 25-20 and, as expected, the crowd flooded the court to congratulate the team.

Last year's overall winner, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, was knocked out of the volleyball challenge early by Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, which took third place.

The next Commander's Cup event, the Endurance "Mystery" Challenge, is scheduled for Feb. 18.

Teams of four with at least one female will compete in an indoor endurance challenge.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Cpl. Michael Salinas (left), Combat Logistics Company 36 volleyball player, stops a spike attempt from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 during the Commander's Cup volleyball challenge at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21.

Free Admission

U.S.-JAPAN Friendship Concert in IWAKUNI

M. C. Perry High School

**Iwakuni municipal
Higashi junior high school**

**Iwakuni municipal
Kawashimo junior high school**



Sun 30 Jan 2011, 3:00 PM
Doors open at 2:00 PM

Sinfonia Iwakuni Concert Hall (1F)

1-1-1, Mikasa-cho, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi-ken

- About 0.8km south from JR Iwakuni Station.
(About 10 minutes by walking)
- About 5 minute walk from Mikasa bridge bus stop.
- About 10km away from JR Sanyo Shinkansen
Shin-iwakuni Station. (About 20 minutes by car)

※To avoid traffic congestion, please use public transportation.



[POC] Local Coordination Division Planning Department Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau/TEL. 082-223-7153

Hosted by Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau

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