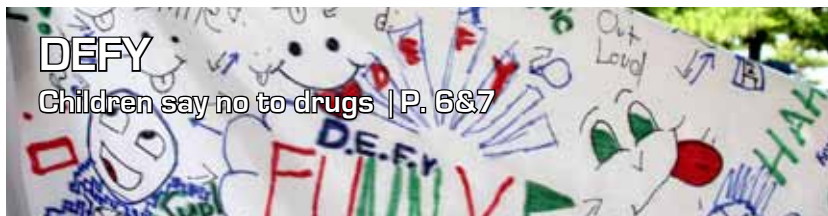




PURIFIED

Find out how clean water makes it to our homes | P. 5



DEFY

Children say no to drugs | P. 6&7



H&HS

takes out MACS-4 | P. 11

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 31 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Marines, sailors care for Australian wildlife



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND, Australia — Three koalas sit on a tree at the Billabong Sanctuary here Aug. 5. More than 15 Japan-based Marines and sailors participated in a clean-up and restoration project at the sanctuary Aug. 5 as part of the community relation projects planned in support of exercise Southern Frontier 2011. The sanctuary is home to a variety of local animals, which include kangaroos, wallabies, crocodiles and more.

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND,

Australia — More than 15 Japan-based Marines and sailors participated in a cleanup and restoration project at the Billabong Sanctuary here Aug. 5 as part of the community relations projects planned in support of exercise Southern Frontier 2011.

Southern Frontier is an annual bilateral exercise designed to test and refine the Marine aerial units' ability to provide close-air support to integrated American and Australian ground units.

The exercise also focuses on strengthening bonds between the two countries.

Service members from Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 participated in the Billabong cleanup.

The Billabong Sanctuary is a family-owned animal preserve that houses many local animals including kangaroos, koalas, crocodiles and others.

Cyclone Yasi devastated the preserve earlier this year, which forced the staff to close down part of the sanctuary due to damage incurred during the storm.

"We are not government funded in any way so we haven't had all the support that we would have liked," said Brett Flemming, Billabong Sanctuary general manager. "Projects like this, with the Marines helping out, are a big deal to us."

More than a third of the park has been closed since the cyclone hit the sanctuary. The Marines and sailors spent the

SEE **WILD** ON PAGE 3

Mighty Shrikes headed to Kadena

CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Strike Fighter Squadron 94 advance personnel departed the air station toward Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Wednesday, to complete final preparations for training evolutions to be carried out on the island.

VFA-94 sent six personnel Sunday to prepare for operations by conducting site-surveys for workspaces and billeting before the advance and main body personnel arrived.

Also known as the Mighty Shrikes and home-based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., VFA-94 has been temporarily stationed here as the only Navy Hornet squadron to participate in the Unit Deployment Program.

UDP allows for the mobilization of units throughout the Western Pacific for periods of approximately six months. These units train in various forward-deployed environments and carry out training exercises such as Lava Viper in Hawaii and Talisman Sabre in Australia, standing ready to execute missions of the Corps.

VFA-94 will be conducting operations alongside Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, which wrapped up Southern Frontier 2011 this week.

SEE **STRIKE** ON PAGE 3

Marines, Aussies continue combined training in Southern Frontier 2011

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TOWNSVILLE, Australia

— Japan-based Marine units and Australian forces have been participating in exercise Southern Frontier 2011 over the last several weeks.

Southern Frontier is an annual bilateral exercise designed to test and refine the Marine aerial units' ability to provide close air support to integrated American and Australian ground units.

Japan-based Marine units par-

ticipating in this year's Southern Frontier include assets from Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 and 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company.

Lt. Col. Waylan Cain, VMFA-314 commanding officer, said Southern Frontier provides participating squadrons an

opportunity to focus on training they were unable to conduct in their previous exercise.

The Marine units here rolled into Southern Frontier after having taken part in exercise Talisman Sabre 2011, which ended July 29.

Talisman Sabre was a biennial large scale exercise meant to test and improve the Australian and American forces ability to conduct joint and combined task force operations.


Unlike Talisman Sabre, where the Marine units were given the opportunity to work with

Australian counterparts and other American military forces, Southern Frontier provides Marines here the opportunity to conduct more unit-level training among themselves and with their Australian allies.

More than 400 Marines and sailors are participating in this year's Southern Frontier, which has more than 10 F/A-18 Hornets here in support of the exercise.

The F/A-18s are scheduled to fly toward the Highrange

SEE **FRONTIER** ON PAGE 3



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The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘The rich, poor people’

LT. FULGENCIO L. LEGASPI
H&HS STATION CHAPLAIN

I was born and raised in a house made of bamboo.

While growing up, I could see people who had and did not have.

There was a time when rice production was so low, we ate rice porridge flavored with salt or sugar. Sometimes we ate rice combined with grated coconut meat to fill our stomachs during meals.

My parents found means to feed, clothe and shelter their seven children.

Looking at my life right now, I feel rich in the sense that I have things which rich people had when I was a kid.

I would like to share a story worth pause and reflection about

a father and son.

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, “How was the trip?”

“It was great, Dad!”

“Did you see how poor people live?”

“Oh yeah,” said the son.

“So, tell me what you learned from the trip?”

The son answered, “I saw that we have one dog, and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, and they have a creek that has no

end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard, and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they have served others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, and they have friends to protect them.”

The boy’s father was speechless.

His son added, “Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are.”

The story of the father and son makes us wonder what would happen if we gave thanks for everything we have instead of worrying about what we don’t have.

We should appreciate every single thing we have, especially our friends!

With this story, I ask the question: “Who really are the rich and poor people in this world?”


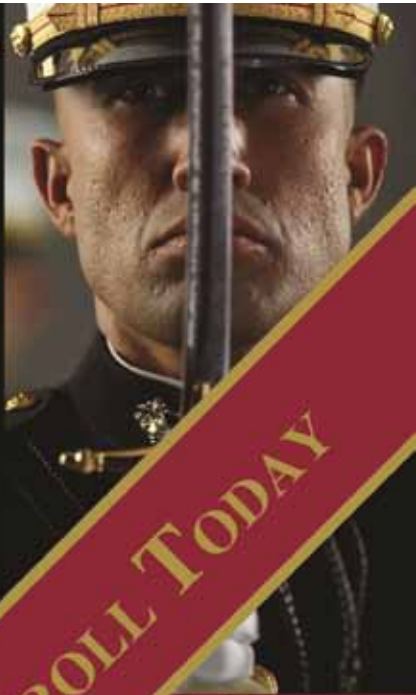
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Big Saver saves more than \$300

BONNIE LEWIS
PERSONAL FINANCIAL
MANAGER

You should think again if you have thought, “I don’t want to use coupons, they don’t really save that much money.”

Angela Creason, station resident, was the winner in the Biggest Saver Coupon contest with a savings of \$342.91 in coupons!

The contest ran from May 1– July 31 and all participants received a participation prize.

If you haven’t participated in the Biggest Saver Coupon Contest, now is your chance.

The next quarter contest has begun, it is scheduled from Aug. 1 – Oct. 31.

The winner will win a free one-hour massage

and everyone who participates will receive a small participation prize.

Participation is easy, just use the coupons available either from the commissary or come to Building 411 and pick up a packet of coupons from one of the baskets throughout the building.

Remember, all coupons are good overseas for an extra six months past the expiration date. Bring your commissary receipts into Building 411, room 201 and put them in the drop box provided.

Ensure your name and phone number are on the back of each receipt.

Everyone who is eligible to purchase from the commissary is eligible for the Biggest Saver Coupon Contest.

For more information, call Bonnie Lewis, the Personal Finance Manager, at 253-6250.

Japan-based units take on Southern Frontier 2011

FRONTIER FROM PAGE 1

Townsville Field Training Area where the majority of the ground scenarios are due to take place and where they will be working with live ordnance.

During Southern Frontier, the units participated in scenarios, have cultivated their abilities in air interdiction strikes, armed reconnaissance support and strike coordination in reconnaissance missions.

“We are adding those extra missions in to make sure we get a well-rounded training evolution here in Southern Frontier,” said Cain.

Members of the Australian 4th Field Regiment are also participating in this year’s exercise to provide artillery support during joint, live-fire training scenarios.

“It’s going to be a high operations tempo,” said Maj. Michael Lepore, VMFA-314 operations officer. “We are going to conduct a lot of live ordnance training and we are going to be able to build those (tactics, techniques and procedures) and relationships that we will carry into the future.”

Lepore said working with the Australians during Talisman Sabre has been great, and he expects things will continue to go well during Southern Frontier.

Aside from the military training scenarios, Marines and sailors here are also scheduled to participate in various community relations projects in support of exercise Southern Frontier.

Cmdr. Dean Hoelz, MAG-12 group chaplain, is in charge of scheduling the various community relation projects.

“Our military mission makes an impact in one area with our allies and host nation but these (community relations projects) are a great opportunity to make an impact with something that doesn’t have to do with combat arms,” said Hoelz. “We are out helping the community by doing projects that help to revitalize the community.”

Some of the volunteer projects include clean-ups and re-vegetation work at local parks, gardens and animal sanctuaries that house koalas, kangaroos and crocodiles.

“These projects put an up-close face of the Marine Corps in the public sector more so than combat arms does,” said Hoelz. “The people who are going to see us here (on base) are just the military personnel but if we go out in the community, they are seeing our uniform, they are seeing our faces and they have the chance to interact and talk with Marines, and they get to know what we are like.”

Southern Frontier ended Monday.

Service members help rebuild animal sanctuary during Southern Frontier 2011 clean-up project

WILD FROM PAGE 1

morning removing felled trees and debris left behind by the cyclone.

They also worked to clear roads to make way for construction vehicles and to rebuild some of the animal enclosures.

Flemming said the Marines and sailors helped to clear away much of the debris he and his staff have been unable to clean up because of their busy schedules with animal presentations.

Cmdr. Dean Hoelz, MAG-12 group chaplain, was responsible for planning all the community relations projects in support of Southern Frontier 2011.

Hoelz said the projects are beneficial to both the service members and the community because it allows the service

members to experience part of the culture up close and the community has a face to see.

“It helps the greater community to see U.S. forces out doing something other than just flying jets or shooting,” said Hoelz. “(These projects) are helping to rebuild.”

Many of the service members struggled as they worked together to remove the heavy trees and rubble left behind by the cyclone.

According to the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology Website, a Category Five cyclone struck the Northern region of Australia Feb. 2, Cyclone Yasi is one of the strongest cyclones on record to have hit Queensland.

Wind speeds for the cyclone were estimated to have reached approximately 177.09 miles per hour and caused a tidal surge of more than 16 feet

off the coast.

Although they spent the morning sweating and working, several of the Marines and sailors appreciated the opportunity to help out.

“Honestly, it’s a good experience for me because helping out people is one of the main reasons why I joined the military,” said Sgt. Eric Martinez, VMFA-314 career planner and cleanup participant. “It not only shows we are an elite fighting force but we actually do care and we are not trying to conquer every other country.”

After the service members finished their work at the sanctuary, some of the park rangers gave the Marines and sailors a free tour.

During the tour, service members were given the opportunity to learn about the local wildlife housed there.

Mighty Shrikes slated to train with Bats

STRIKE FROM PAGE 1

Both squadrons are slated to receive an ample amount of command support from Marine Aircraft Group 12, logistical support from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and ordnance support from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12.

“MALS-12 helps us with any piece of ordnance,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Benavidez. “They are really good about supporting us.”

According to Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Benavidez, VFA-94 assistant logistics officer, the planning process has gone smooth with minimal challenges.

Backed by flightline and logistical support from U.S. Air Force elements, operating in Okinawa will allow the squadron to carry out unique training missions they would not be able to perform almost anywhere else.

The vast ranges on the island can allow the squadron to train with significant amounts of live-ordnance, which is essential to every Hornet squadron mission.

While in Okinawa, the Mighty Shrikes will concentrate on air-to-ground support to improve

squadron readiness and unit cohesion.

Training also allows naval F/A-18C Hornet pilots to improve their proficiency in the air-to-air arena while gaining significant qualifications.

“It’s going to be a lot of bombing for the pilots,” said Benavidez. “We’re restricted to the type of bombing tactics we can do here, so air-to-ground is our focus.”

Before departing, VFA-94 maintenance personnel worked hard to keep the operational tempo high in preparation for the deployment.

“We’ve been keeping busy flying as many jets as we can,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Bruce Gilstrap, VFA-94 line petty officer. “We’ll have everyone out here to get those birds up, and we’ve been able to do it each time.”

For many of the maintenance crew, conducting operations in Okinawa is no different than conducting operations anywhere else.

“We’re in the business of launching jets,” said Gilstrap. “We’re ready. It’s just a matter of packing up and getting over there.”

Essential main-body personnel are slated to depart via High Speed Vessel Saturday to carry out VFA-94’s overall mission.

Got News? Got News? 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, calling 253-5551 or stopping by Building 1, Room 216.

Corporals Course: class 523-11

Honor graduate: Cpl. Devon R. James
Iron man: Cpl. Shaun N. Green
Gung Ho: Cpl. Donovan S. Salter-Green

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Marine Wing Support Squadron 17

Cpl. Stapleton Brown
Cpl. Michael B. Burkhardt
Cpl. James A. Deanda
Cpl. Charles J. Duffie
Cpl. Isiah W. Hester
Cpl. Felix De Jesus III
Cpl. Daniel F. Leal
Cpl. Tiffany L. Nelson
Cpl. Thomas M. Perry
Cpl. Adrian N. Pineda
Cpl. Laine T. Sauca
Cpl. Elijah M. Selvidge
Cpl. Evan F. Vega

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron
Marine Aircraft Group 12
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Adapting to Japan, the culture shock cure

CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The idea of living in a foreign country like Japan for the first time can seem daunting for single and unaccompanied Marines, married service members and their families. It may seem challenging to spend a two or three-year tour immersed in a whole new culture, experiencing new adventures, new music, tasting new foods and learning about new, interesting places.

There is a lot to see and do here dissimilar from anything one might be used to back in the U.S., and it also means there may be much to learn.

The Cultural Adaptation program here is an ongoing Marine Corps Community Services resource for station residents seeking information about exciting ways to experience the rich culture of Japan.

"I notice many Marines want to get off base and see what is going on around Japan," said Takako Wolff, Cultural Adaptation specialist with MCCS. "They may want to go to Hiroshima or somewhere to have fun, but they may also seem a little afraid something may happen and they will not be able to navigate back. I am hoping we can help them feel comfortable living in Japan and living in Iwakuni."

At the Cultural Adaptation office, in room 101 on the first floor of Building 411, station residents can find information on local sites such as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and other historical monuments located at Hiroshima Peace Park.

For station residents looking for a chance to get out and do something closer to home, Cultural Adaptation provides information about the historic five-arched Kintai Bridge spanning the Nishiki River to Kikko Park, surrounded by colorful cherry blossom trees in the spring.

Station residents can also find information about Japanese holidays, local popular festivals, parades, aquariums, caves, waterfalls and an abundance of other activities.

With help from the Cultural Adaptation

program, service members and their families can learn to identify positive cultural differences and adjust to the Japanese culture in enjoyable and educational ways.

Cultural Adaptation offers survival Japanese courses to help new station residents learn how to communicate with locals on a basic level when trying to navigate around town or when shopping. Learning simple phrases like "kore wa ikura desuka?," which means "how much is this?" and "hajime-mashite," which means "nice to meet you" are just a few phrases station residents can add to their Japanese lingual repertoire.

The Cultural Adaptation program also hosts trips to local places around Iwakuni where station residents can learn to cook authentic Japanese dishes, drink tea, put on fashionable Kimono dresses and try their hand at the art of origami, a Japanese traditional paper craft.

"I think food is a very important part of every culture," said Wolff. "Actually trying it is like accepting the culture because it is not that easy to try new food. I think it is important to do that because it may also allow people to accept others into that part of the community too."

Wolff identified one dish popular to Iwakuni called Iwakuni sushi, which is a square-molded, rice layered sushi with many natural, special flavorings. Station residents can seek information on how to make Iwakuni sushi at home and share it with others.

"When it comes to cooking, I think it is a very good way to communicate when you have a language barrier," said Wolff. "You do not really need to use your language. If you don't understand, people can show you, and you can do it together."

MCCS also provides a Youth Cultural Program for American and Japanese children and their families to come together, make new friends and share common experiences in the local community, especially during the summer months when school is out.

Many of the trips for adults are also appropriate for children, but the Youth cultural Program takes additional care

to make the trips appeal to children to ensure they are also able to take advantage of Japan's rich cultural experiences, said Nami Yamamoto, Youth Cultural Program specialist with MCCS.

Station youth and parents can get ankle deep in mud and water while rice planting for a genuine rural and traditional Japanese agricultural experience. Children and parents can also participate in rice harvesting.

There is an opportunity for children and parents to get out and experience the local fall Iwakuni Festival.

"Activities also allow Japanese children to experience American culture as well through games and fun events," said Yamamoto.

Every year, Matthew C. Perry High School, Iwakuni Municipal Higashi Junior High School and Iwakuni Municipal Kawashimo Junior High School set the stage for the U.S. and Japanese Friendship Concert at the Iwakuni Sinfonia Concert Hall. This allows Japanese and American students, as well as parents, to come together through music.

The Cultural Adaptation and Youth Cultural Programs keep schedules of upcoming events for both children and adults to sign up and participate. The programs also coordinate with the station Information Tours and Travel office, located at the Crossroads Mall to provide help and information about booking reservations at hotels and purchasing tickets to local events.

Hiroe Ruby, information and referral specialist with MCCS, is the go-to specialist for information about local resources, places and events.

"Mainly, I provide flyers and information about where to go, how to get somewhere, how to enjoy the facilities and answer all questions," said Ruby. "I work in between the military community and the local community to help so that they can just enjoy or get to know more areas."

Together, Cultural Adaptation and ITT provide station residents with the cure for any form of culture shock so new members can settle in and take advantage of new experiences.

Children go to purification plant, learn about water

PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Children from the Youth and Teen Center here went to the Nishimi Water Purification Plant Aug. 12 to learn how water gets to homes.

The purification plant was designed to take water from Nishiki River and turn it into clean water for homes in Iwakuni.

The children learn how the plant works and how it manages to feed the city and the station.

"We learned how the water is received by the Nishiki River," said Codie Hernandez, 11, incoming Matthew C. Perry High School seventh grade student.

The children then went on a tour throughout the plant. They saw the different chemical treatments and water basins.

"Chemicals are added to the water so bad things that we don't want in our drinking water can be removed," said Hideo Nakamoto, Nishimi Water Purification Plant tour leader and engineer.

Chemicals added to the water make pollutants coagulate so they may be removed.

The water then sifts through basins where the chemicals and pollution are safely removed.

After the tour, the children went back to the classroom and were able to ask questions.

The children asked about the



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Pumps are used to move water from the Nishimi Water Purification Plant uphill to a distribution center during a field trip Aug. 12. They pump thousands of gallons of water uphill so it may flow down to homes without the need for extra pumps.

Nishiki River and how the plant receives its water.

Nakamoto showed how much water is stored in the plant's tanks.

"I was shocked just by the sheer amount of water," said Hernandez. "We all learned that we should use faucet water instead of bottled water."

Water that comes through the pipes in homes must undergo more tests than water that is sold in bottles.

"The trip went very well and hopefully they learned something that they can take back to school," said Chuck Hill, environmental protection specialist.

The summer program at the Youth and Teen Center continues to teach children about health and the environment.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Kyle Kuster, 9, takes a drink of fresh water recently purified at the Nishimi Water Treatment Plant Aug. 12. The water is inspected and must go through many tests before it is ready to drink.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Jaden Scott, 10, and other children from the Youth and Teen center inspect a water basin at the Nishimi Water Purification Plant Aug. 12. Students of the Youth and Teen Center have been focusing on environmental protection all summer and continue to learn during the field trip to the plant.

Children defy odds of falling into drugs

PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Matthew C. Perry Elementary and High school students visited the Kintai Bridge during a field trip Aug. 5 sponsored by the Drug Education For Youth program.

DEFY is an eight-day program designed to help kids become more open, confident and have fun with other children.

The program shows children, ages 8-12 the dangers of drugs and how to repel low self esteem, peer pressure, poor eating habits and other struggles they may face.

DEFY takes the children on field trips to different places such as the Provost Marshal's Office or the Sakura Theater here. However, the program also takes the kids off base to places like Iwakuni Castle or Miyajima island.

as the American flag is raised, lowered and folded.

However, DEFY tries to keep most military traditions out of the program, said Seaman Seth B. Anderson, volunteer mentor.

The program is centered around teaching the children to make better decisions and allowing them to grow in their own ways, said Petty Officer 1st Class William L. Gordon, assistant program coordinator.

"We took the kids out to the buffet and let them eat whatever they wanted," said Gordon.

After the meal, the children and mentors got together and talked about how they felt and what they could have eaten instead.

One of the key lessons DEFY emphasizes is staying healthy.

DEFY teaches kids it is healthier to eat smaller snacks throughout the day rather than larger meals, said Gordon.

Eating healthy is not the only part to being healthy, DEFY also emphasizes staying active as an important factor.

"The biggest 'drug' this year is video games," said Anderson.

The program incorporates well-known games like kickball or soccer to make exercise fun for kids.

DEFY also creates its own games to keep the children involved.

"I think the most beneficial part is the kids are learning to have fun with people their own age," said Anderson.

According to Chief Petty Officer Edwin N. Guingab, local program coordinator, M.C. Perry has reported a visible difference in maturity and behavior between the DEFY children and their fellow classmates.

For more information about DEFY or volunteer opportunities call 253-4249.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Shannon Gilbert, 16, and Sabrina Herritt, 10, teach other children about the dangers of peer pressure at the Kintai Park Aug. 5. They taught that peer pressure includes drugs, drinking alcohol, ditching school, and other things.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Children from the DEFY program eat sandwiches at Kintai park during a field trip Aug. 5. The children are given sandwiches as a healthy alternative to fatty foods. The program shows the kids the importance of eating healthy, exercising and making the right choices.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Petty Officer 1st Class Willie Mercado and Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth Johnson, volunteer mentors, help teach Mark Mendoza, 10, how to correctly fold the American Flag Aug. 5. the Drug Education for Youth program teaches children about some military traditions and about respecting our country's flag.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Children from the Drug Education for Youth program jump with excitement in front of the Kintai Park pool during a field trip Aug. 5. DEFY shows children the dangers of drugs and helps them overcome other struggles.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Mahlik Francis, 10, and Alexis Flores, 12, play soccer in a DEFY game Aug. 9. The children get exercise and eat healthy to show they can make the right choices.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Children from the Drug Education for Youth program hold their flag proudly as they cross Kintai Bridge on a field trip Aug. 5. Kintai Bridge is one of the first stops on the field trip to Iwakuni Castle where the children hiked and to Kintai park where they swam and played water games.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Living Marine to receive Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan

CPL. REECE LODDER
MARINE CORPS
BASE HAWAII

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii — Removed from an ambushed platoon of Marines and soldiers in a remote Afghan village Sept. 8, 2009, his reality viciously shaken by an onslaught of enemy fighters, Cpl. Dakota Meyer simply reacted as he knew best — tackling what he called “extraordinary circumstances” by “doing the right thing ... whatever it takes.”

Nearly two years later, the White House announced Aug. 12, 2011, the 23-year-old Marine scout sniper from Columbia, Ky., who has since left the Marine Corps, will become the first living Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor in 38 years. Retired Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg Jr. received the medal in 1973 for gallantry in Vietnam three years earlier.

Meyer is the second Marine to receive the medal for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Cpl. Jason Dunham was awarded the medal posthumously for covering a grenade with his body to save two Marines in Iraq in 2004.

President Barack Obama will present the award to Meyer at the White House, Sept. 15. “The award honors the men who gave their lives that day, and the men who were in that fight,” Meyer said. “I didn’t do anything more than any other Marine would. I was put in an extraordinary circumstance, and I just did my job.”

Though bleeding from shrapnel wounds in his right arm, Meyer, aided by fellow Marines and Army advisors from Embedded Training Team 2-8, braved a vicious hail of enemy machine-gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire in the village of Ganjal to help rescue and evacuate more than 15 wounded Afghan soldiers, and recover the bodies of four fallen fighters — 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, Gunner Sgt. Aaron Kenefick and Edwin Johnson Jr., and Petty Officer 3rd Class James Layton.

Meyer charged through the battle zone five times to recover the dead Marines and injured Afghan soldiers, risking his life even when a medical evacuation helicopter wouldn’t land because of the blazing gunfire.

“There’s not a day — not a second that goes by where I don’t think about what happened that day,” Meyer said. “I didn’t just lose four Marines that day; I lost four brothers.”

Author Bing West, a retired Marine infantry officer and combat veteran of Vietnam, detailed Meyer’s actions in the battle in “The Wrong War,” and praised Meyer for taking command of the battle as a corporal — the most junior advisor in this firefight.

West said Meyer should have been killed, but he dominated the battlefield by fearlessly exposing himself to danger and pumping rifle and machine gun rounds into the enemy fighters.

“When you leave the perimeter, you don’t know what’s going to happen, regardless of what war you’re fighting in,” Kellogg, who lives in Kailua, Hawaii, said. “Once you get to a point where you make the decision — ‘I’m probably going to die, so let the party begin’ — once you say in your mind you aren’t getting out of there, you fight harder and harder.”

Beginning his career with the same regiment from which Kellogg retired in 1990, Meyer

deployed with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, to Fallujah, Iraq, in 2007, and earned a meritorious promotion to corporal in late 2008 after returning from the deployment.

Before leaving for Iraq, Meyer completed the Marine Corps’ 10-week Scout Sniper Basic Course, and committed himself to preparing himself and his snipers for combat. They attended lifesaving classes taught by Navy corpsmen and honed their skills with a myriad of weapons systems, such as light machine guns. Meyer also spent time in his battalion’s communications section learning how to call for mortar and artillery fire.

“I devoted my whole life to making the best snipers in the Marine Corps,” Meyer said. “They’re a direct reflection of your leadership. If you fail them in training, it could get them killed on the battlefield.”

In February 2009, Meyer volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan’s dangerous Kunar province and mentor Afghan soldiers as part of an embedded training team, the type of role usually filled by U.S. Special Forces.

“A Marine who seeks the challenge of joining his unit’s scout sniper platoon has to have a lot of drive and determination,” said Col. Nathan Nastase, commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment and formerly Meyer’s battalion commander at 3/3. “Being assigned to the ETT was a huge vote of confidence in his abilities.”

Meyer deployed to Afghanistan on the ETT in July 2009.

“Our mission was to help prepare the Afghans to take over their own country and provide security for themselves,” Meyer said. “ETT’s make a huge impact on the outcome of the war.”

In Kunar province, Meyer and another ETT advisor would lead squads of 15 Afghan soldiers on patrols. Since he could speak Pashto, the local language, so well, Meyer often separated from the element with his Afghan trainees.

When his patrol fought to rescue another from an ambush Sept. 8, 2009, Meyer’s focus on advising gave way to surviving and on what he had to do to keep himself and his men alive.

“I lost a lot of Afghans that day,” Meyer said. “And I’ll tell you right now — they were just as close to me as those Marines were. At the end of the day, I don’t care if they’re Afghans, Iraqis, Marines or Army; it didn’t matter. They’re in the same shit you are, and they want to go home and see their family just as bad as you do.”

Thrown into unimaginable circumstances, Meyer said the Afghan soldiers and his sniper training “saved my life” during the battle.

Cpl. David Hawkins grew as a Marine under Meyer’s leadership in 3/3’s Scout Sniper Platoon.

“Meyer was an ideal leader,” Hawkins said. “He knew everything about the Marines underneath him — how they’d respond to every situation, not only on a Marine Corps level but also on a personal level.”

Hawkins said he was deeply humbled by Meyer’s concern as a friend, especially after being injured in Afghanistan last year. Hawkins was severely wounded by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan Sept. 24, 2010. Four days later, he lay static in a stark hospital room, riddled with shrapnel. After groggily emerging from anesthesia into



CPL. REECE LODDER

GANJAL VILLAGE, Afghanistan — Sgt. (then Cpl.) Dakota Meyer while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Ganjal Village, Kunar province, Afghanistan. Meyer will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest award for valor, from President Barack Obama in Washington, Sept. 15, making him the first living Marine recipient since the Vietnam War. Meyer was assigned to Embedded Training Team 2-8 advising the Afghan National Army in the eastern provinces bordering Pakistan. He will be awarded for heroic actions in Ganjal, Afghanistan, Sept. 8, 2009.

a blurry reality, Hawkins’ phone rang — the first call from a friend. Without fail, Meyer’s jovial drawl broke through the speaker.

“In the Marine Corps, you always hear that if something’s broke, you’ve got to work to fix it, but you never really see the Marine who does it,” Hawkins said. “Meyer is that Marine. If he had something to say, he’d say it, and he wasn’t really afraid of repercussions for what he said. If it needed to be changed, he changed it.”

Hearing his friend would receive the Medal of Honor didn’t surprise Hawkins. In light of the “character” and “country boy” Hawkins knows, Meyer’s actions were simply the manifestation of how he lived and led.

“Meyer was destined for the Medal of Honor,” Hawkins said. “If you got to work with him, you’d see it.”

Meyer completed his tour on active duty last June. He went home to Kentucky, where he’s found purpose working with his hands in a family business.

“Pouring concrete is kind of like the Marine Corps,” Meyer said. “When you wake up in the morning, you’ve got a job ... like a mission. There’s no set standard on how to do things, but you just have to go out there, make decisions and get it done — and that’s like the challenge of the Marine Corps. Once you’re satisfied with what you’ve done, you stop getting better.”

Meyer is the 86th living Medal of Honor recipient, and he joins a small, elite group of heroes, a reality that will often require him to conjure up haunting reminders of the battles he has fought, the friends he has lost and the painful regret he bears.

“I’m not a hero, by any means — I’m a Marine, that’s what I am,” he said. “The heroes are the men and women still serving, and the guys who gave their lives for their country. At the end of the day, I went in there to do the right thing ... and it all boils down to doing the right thing ... whatever it takes. All those things we learn stick in your head, and when you live by it, that’s the Marine way.”

Though Meyer will receive the Medal of Honor for what he did in Ganjal, he insists he will wear the five-pointed medallion and blue silk ribbon to honor his fallen brothers, their families and his fellow Marines.

“Being a Marine is a way of life,” Meyer said. “It isn’t just a word, and it’s not just about the uniform — it’s about brotherhood. Brotherhood means that when you turn around, they’re there, through thick and thin. If you can’t take care of your brothers, what can you do in life?”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Iwakuni Roadrunners

The Iwakuni Roadrunners Club will meet regularly for group runs in front of the Crossroads at 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Whether you are a seasoned runner or just getting started, this is a great opportunity to get out in the community and run with like-minded individuals. Participants will be grouped according to ability. All active service members and civilians are welcome. Participants are asked to bring their ID/ liberty cards. For more information, visit its Facebook page “Iwakuni Roadrunners.”

Girl Scouts

The Iwakuni Girl Scouts is looking for fun-loving, devoted women and men who want to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls. If you are interested in becoming a leader, co-leader, board member or parent volunteer, e-mail iwakunigs@gmail.com.

American Red Cross

The ARC is scheduled to host two health and

safety courses throughout the month of September. A baby sitting class is scheduled 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sept. 10. An Adult, Infant, Child CPR & First Aid class is scheduled Sept. 24 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The fee for each course is \$40. For more information, call 253-4525.

Childcare

If you have an unborn baby and will need childcare, put your name on the waiting list as soon as possible. If you do not sign up for the waiting list, you are at potential risk of not having childcare. For more information, call Melissa Valdez at 253-4141.

Crime Stoppers

To report a crime, call 253-3333. Callers can leave a detailed message without having to speak to a live person.

Lending Locker Program

The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command-sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days

outbound. A copy of PCS orders is required. The lending locker is located in Building 411 room 101. For more information call, 253-6161.

PMO Lost and Found

Contact the Provost Marshal’s Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the installation. Examples may include cell phones, keys, digital cameras, bicycle helmets, etc. To recover lost items or for more information, call 253-4929.

Temporary Mess Hall

Building 240 is designated as a temporary mess hall. Hours of operation are 6 – 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Friday. The special shuttle bus will continue to run during the dinner and dinner/brunch meal periods. A sandwich bar is also available from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

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.

Jobs

Part-time Dental Assistant position

The dental clinic is seeking a certified dental assistant. For more information, stop by the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic, Bldg. 111 or call 253-5252/3331 to speak with Petty Officer 1st Class Sean Bohl or Senior Chief Petty Officer Ron Hunter.

Program Management Positions

Louis Berger Group is seeking experienced DoD, retired or separated military members for program management positions located at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan. Some requirements include a minimum four-year degree, five-years

experience, U.S. citizen, able to obtain secret security clearance, experience with military requirements, planning and operations. For immediate consideration for local residents, you may submit an advance resume to lbginokinawa@gmail.com. For more information visit www.louisberger.com and look for the jobs indicated for Okinawa.

Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified ad, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information to be published. You may submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or call 253-5551. 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.

Sea Wall closure

The seawall fitness path from the school and housing area to the IronWorks Gym B1010 will be closed to the public Aug. 1, 2011- May 2012 due to a major repair project by the resident officer in charge of construction Iwakuni. The repair will be conducted in two phases. The IronWorks Gym to the Port Area Security Gate is scheduled to be closed from June 2012 to April 2013 as well. The repairs are necessary to maintain the safety and serviceability of the fitness path. Community safety and security is paramount throughout the project duration.

Interested in becoming a DJ?



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

INFORMATION/JOB

FAIR 2011

Saturday, August 20
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Club Iwakuni Ballroom

Join us and discover what
MCAS Iwakuni & MCCS have to offer!

253-3311/www.mccsiwakuni.com/orcs

There will be food, Japanese cultural performances and chances to win great prizes.

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
Protestant	
Saturday	10 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)
Church of Christ	
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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.

Photo of the week



Junior firefighter, Kenta Imanishi, uses a rescue window saw to cut out the front windshield of a vehicle during the Skill Test II training, here, Aug. 4. Japanese civilian firefighters aboard MCAS Iwakuni conducted the Skill Test II training to become DoD certified firefighters. If you would like to submit your own photo, you can submit to the Public Affairs Office by e-mailing them to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or submit them in person at the Public Affairs 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. For more information call 253-5551.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, August 19, 2011
7 p.m. Larry Crowne (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. Bad Teacher (R)
Premiere

Saturday, August 20, 2011
1 p.m. Monte Carlo (PG)
Premiere
4 p.m. Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG)
7 p.m. Larry Crowne (PG-13)

Sunday, August 21, 2011
1 p.m. Monte Carlo (PG)
4 p.m. Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13)
7 p.m. Bad Teacher (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 \$3 / Ages 6-11 are \$1.50 / Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

Monday, August 22, 2011
1 p.m. Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG)
7 p.m. Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13)

Tuesday, August 23, 2011
Theater Closed

Wednesday, August 24, 2011
Theater Closed

Thursday, August 25, 2011
1 p.m. Monte Carlo (PG)
7 p.m. Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13)

H&HS beats down MACS-4, 5-1, during intramural soccer season game

LANCE CPL.CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

H&HS dominated MACS-4, 5-1, during a 2011 intramural soccer season game at Penny Lake fields here Aug. 10.

MACS-4 started the game with possession, but after a misjudged pass, lost the ball to H&HS.

The H&HS strikers, led by Clayton R. Hullet, charged down field.

Jose A. Graciano, H&HS striker, was passed the ball while Hullet ran to the opposite side of the field.

Graciano passed the ball to Victor T. Delaflor, H&HS striker.

Delaflor launched the ball past MACS-4 defenders to Hullet who kicked the ball into the goal, which brought the score to 1-0.

"I got a good pass from Delaflor, which set me up perfectly for a goal," said Hullet.

MACS-4 stepped up its game and kept the ball in H&HS territory.

Graciano stole the ball and shot it down field to Seth P. Stringham, H&HS striker. Stringham drove the ball through the MACS-4 defense and blasted a shot past its goalkeeper, which gave H&HS a 2-0 lead.

Both teams' strikers acquired possession several times until Christopher M. Clark, H&HS striker, managed to break through the MACS-4 defense and scored H&HS' third goal.

MACS-4 stormed down field but half-time was called before a goal attempt could be made.

H&HS started the second half with the ball, but MACS-4's defense kept the ball in H&HS domain.

H&HS defenders outmaneuvered the

MACS-4 strikers and bunted the ball into MACS-4 territory where Robert I. Husman, H&HS striker, rushed the MACS-4 keeper and scored a goal.

Husman's goal brought the score to 4-0.

"The main strategy we use is to get as many people to touch the ball as possible," said Hullet. "Through that teamwork, we score a few goals. We try to focus on teamwork as much as possible."

H&HS seemed to be on its way to a shutout game as the clock ran down and neither team could hold onto the ball for very long.

The MACS-4 offense broke through H&HS defenders, which allowed Wade J. Armstrong, MACS-4 striker, to fire the ball past Austin J. McKenna, H&HS goalkeeper. Armstrong's goal put MACS-4 on the board 4-1.

"I saw an opportunity and I pounced on it," said Armstrong. "It felt like we could come back even though we were running low on time."

H&HS players launched an all-out assault before time ran out.

Delaflor set up Graciano for a goal. Graciano fired the ball into the net for a 5-1 score.

"Delaflor set me up perfectly so all I had to do was kick the ball in the goal," said Graciano.

MACS-4 strikers attempted to get the ball into H&HS domain, but time ran out before they could score another goal.

"We did incredible," Graciano said. "We really worked like a team out there and came out on top."

H&HS players seem excited and optimistic as they finish up regular season play and head into the playoffs, which are scheduled to start Aug. 26.



Victor T. Delaflor, H&HS striker, works to get the ball around Wade J. Armstrong, MACS-4 striker, during a 2011 intramural soccer season game at the Penny Lake fields here Aug. 10. H&HS dominated MACS-4, 5-1.



Austin J. McKenna, H&HS striker, steadies the ball as Daniel A. Laks and Tyler Chandler, MACS-4 strikers, attempts to cover him during a 2011 intramural soccer season game at the Penny Lake fields here Aug. 10. McKenna switched from goalkeeper to striker during the game so the H&HS team could rotate its players into action.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Corn chowder, sauerbraten, jerked styled chicken, spicy baked fish, lyonnaise rice, baked macaroni and cheese, asparagus, corn, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, blueberry muffins, cherry pie, white cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tuesday
Chicken gumbo soup, baked Italian sausage, southern fried chicken, pepper steak, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, brussels sprouts polonaise, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, banana nut muffins, peach crunch, cheese cake, peanut butter cookies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday
Cream of chicken soup, baked salmon, roast pork, Yankee pot roast, paprika buttered potatoes, steamed rice, peas and carrots, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, quick cherry coffee cake, pecan pie, marble cake with buttercream frosting, chocolate chip cookie, banana cream pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday
Minestrone soup, barbe-cue chicken, apple glazed corned beef, Cantonese pork ribs, grilled cheese, potatoes au gratin, tossed green rice, orange carrots amandine, spinach, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bow-knots, blueberry muffin, apple pie, devil's food cake with coconut but-tercream frosting, short-bread cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Friday
Chicken rice soup, savory baked chicken, fried catfish, salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, long grain and wild rice, summer squash, asparagus, chicken gravy, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, quick French coffee cake, doughnut, cherry pie, yellow cake with chocolate buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

MCCS & MCAS Iwakuni bring you the 2011

OPEN Summer Music Festival HOUSE

サマーミュージック
フェスティバル

FOOD

Your favorite
American food and drinks

アメリカンフード!

ハンバーガー
ピザ
ナチョスなど

MUSIC

Headline act AIRIEL DOWN
Plus local bands & entertainment

ライブミュージック!

アメリカ本土から
「エアリアル・ダウン」
地元バンドほか

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Fun for all ages!

Kids Land
Static Display
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催し物!

キッズランド・航空機展示・売店

TORII PINES GOLF COURSE
08.27.2011 FROM 2:00-8:00 p.m.

Enjoy live music and good food in a fun
environment while building a stronger
Japanese and American relationship.

for more information visit:
www.mccsiwakuni.com/smf
find us on facebook at:
MCCS Summer Music Festival



Torii Pines Golf Course will be closed from August 23-28.
Driving Range will be open 24 hours a day during this period.
All non-Japanese citizens/over-180cm persons must bring a valid passport or Alien Registration Card.
Guests must complete a short questionnaire prior to being granted access to MCAS Iwakuni for Summer Music Festival. Failure to bring proper identification to complete this questionnaire will result in denial of access to the base. Upon arrival at MCAS Iwakuni, signs at each entrance will direct you where to go for screening.
Event will be cancelled if implement weather issues.