

BURNING CEASES

PMO uses inert OC spray to train, no pain | P. 4

SAMURAI WARRIORS

Marines, Japanese locals volunteer life for samurai sword | P. 6 & 7

SEASONS COME

Flag football, cheerleading seasons begins | P. 11

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 44 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Wolmi-do Fury kicks off

LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 are scheduled to arrive in Guam in a few days to begin aerial and ground training in the region as part of a monthlong deployment for exercise Wolmi-do Fury to improve and bolster combat efficiency.

The purpose of the training is to execute scenario-based tactical operations to demonstrate relevant search capabilities for various theaters and re-familiarize pilots and ground crew members to become proficient in their respective jobs.

"The focus of the exercise is a surge week. For 72 hours operations will work toward maximizing sortie generation," said Maj. Julian Jones, MAG-12 future operations officer.

Other areas of focus during this exercise will include air-to-ground armed reconnaissance,

Strike Coordination and Reconnaissance, close-air support and forward-air controlled airborne missions.

Wolmi-do Fury is a large-force MAG-12 level exercise and integrates other flying squadrons deployed here as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

"Because (VMFA-115) is on the East Coast it's very difficult for us to find areas where we can train to our full spectrum of mission sets," said Maj. Greg A McGuire, VMFA-115 maintenance officer. "Coming on UDP really helps us out specifically going to a place like Guam where there is a large amount of airspace and we can do large force exercises and still have an opportunity to load and employ large ordnance."

UDP allows units throughout the Western Pacific to mobilize for periods of approximately six months. Units in the program train in various forward-deployed environments and participate in different exercises such as Talisman Sabre in Australia and Lava Viper in Hawaii.

Some units are returning to

SEE GUAM ON PAGE 3

Street bike idols come to Iwakuni

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Jason Britton and Eric Hoenshell, professional sport bike freestyle riders, came out to show their support to the Marines and sailors at the Marine Corps Exchange here Nov. 16.

The riders signed autographs and gave away hats along with other memorabilia.

Monster and Kawasaki sponsored Hoenshell, Britton and Britton's team, Team No Limit, so they could come to Iwakuni said Darlene Barrett, vice president of military sales for Monster products.

The goal of the tour was to give back to the troops.

"It was an expensive tour, but we really wanted to do it because we wanted to give back to the troops," said Barrett.

The main challenge was the careful shipping of the bikes. However, other problems arose and did not allow a performance to take place.

"It's a passion and it's not something an injury or

SEE BIKE ON PAGE 3



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Marines and station residents line up and sign the table cloth during Jason Britton and Eric Hoenshell, professional sport bike freestyle riders, autograph session at the Marine Corps Exchange here Nov. 16. The riders signed autographs and gave away hats along with other memorabilia. The goal of the tour was to give back to the troops and create a performance which would be remembered. The amount of training and safety which goes into any dangerous occupation, military included, is key to how well individuals may succeed.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Seaman Lee W. Lovorn (left), a Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic general corpsman, and Seaman Seth B. Andersen (right), a Branch Health Clinic hospital corpsman, wrap the leg of Seaman Estephani E. Torresvillanueva's, a BHC aerospace medical technician and course participant, in a splint during the Tactical Combat Casualty Care course in front of the BHC here Nov. 18. The purpose of the course was to prepare corpsmen for handling injuries and casualties in a combat zone.

Sailors train in combat medicine

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Six Corpsmen from here and Sasebo Naval Base completed training for the Tactical Combat Casualty Care course at Building 411 and the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic here Nov. 18.


The purpose of the course was to prepare corpsmen for handling injuries and casualties in a combat zone.

"We have to get them prepared for a tactical environment," said Petty Officer 1st Class William L. Gordon, TCCC course instructor and Branch Health Clinic lead petty officer. "We have to get them out of that (Emergency Medical Technician) training they've had about echelons of care and go into tactical echelons of care."

The EMT mindset of care is often referred to as "civilian care," as it closely mirrors civilian healthcare in regards to priority treatment.

"The most injured person in the civilian

SEE TACTICAL ON PAGE 3



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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

‘Tis the season to be stress free’

LT. J.G. TRAVIS E. COFFEY
MAG-12 DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

For most people, this season is the most stressful time of the year. We all need relief valves in life. They can save a lot of time cleaning up messes caused by personal explosions.

When I installed a new hot water heater, I discovered a local ordinance which says there has to be a relief valve hooked up somewhere in the water system. If for some reason the thermostat doesn’t turn off the gas under the boiler, and the boiler is extremely hot and ready to explode, the valve will pop off relieving the pressure.

When you see your calendar is over the top with heavy weeks or too many late nights, block out some relief-valve time; use

- some dedicated time off work; burn some leave for an extended weekend. Take yourself out of your normal situation. This may mean a day alone at the beach, hiking or camping in the mountains. Maybe spend a day with your friends or family, or spend a weekend away with your spouse. Additionally, it’s a big help if couples discuss future schedules together to identify where overload problems are and schedule breaks in the routine.
- Here are some other pointers to help relieve stress:
- Stay ahead of your work is a good way to relieve pressure of schedules.
 - Do hard things first, particularly if they have a great deal of emotional content. This will relieve the subterranean emotions which tend to plague us in different situations.
 - Get enough sleep, a must.
 - Do difficult tasks in phases. Often, a “first draft” will get you 80 percent of the way along. Time for “topping off” finished products and meeting deadlines seems less of a task.
 - Have planned recreation and hobbies. Find time for your hobbies and experience joys of life, outside your job.
 - Admit and verbalize the causes for your irritations. Stay aware of your weaknesses and help keep others from getting emotional with you.
 - Face up to the fact you really can’t do all things scheduled. This can be humbling, but rewards are great.
- Good luck and enjoy this season.

Corporals Course: 502-12

Honor Graduate: Cpl. Roy A. Covington III

H&HS

Iron Man: Cpl. Castulo Velazquez

MWSS-171

Gung Ho: Cpl. John A. Moore

H&HS

Cpl. Dustin R. Adams H&HS	Cpl. Damian R. Deanda H&HS	Cpl. Jesse J. Perkins MALS-12
Cpl. Michael J. Bach H&HS	Cpl. Jeffrey A. Depies H&HS	Cpl. Noparat C. Ratanakajana MWSS-171
Cpl. Derrius R. Beverly MAG-12	Cpl. Matthew W. Derosia MALS-12	Cpl. Anthone Sanchez MAG-12
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Cpl. Gerald R. Clark H&HS	Cpl. Nicholas A. Matos H&HS	Cpl. Robert R. Ware H&HS
Cpl. Westley T. Creamer MALS-12	Cpl. Gerrod L. McIntosh H&HS	Cpl. Caleb J. Wolff MWSS-171
Cpl. Andrew P. Myers H&HS		

Combat situations present sailors practice



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Seaman Dylan L. Kennedy, a Branch Health Clinic Sasebo general corpsman, applies a stint to the the leg of Lee. W. Lovorn, a Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic general corpsman, during the practical application of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care course here in front of the BHC Dec. 18.

TACTICAL FROM PAGE 1

world is going to get care first,” said Gordon. “That’s not necessarily true in a tactical environment.”

The two styles of care, EMT and tactical, differ in establishing who receives treatment first.

When in a tactical situation, the priority is accomplishing the mission and ensuring anyone who is able to continue fighting, can.

“We want to keep rifles firing, so we go to the ones less injured who we can actually help to get back out there and continue fighting,” said Gordon.

Though this train of thought may seem harsh, it is essential for corpsmen in the field to cut down on time spent administering aid to those who are not able to help mission accomplishment.

This in turn ensures engagements end quicker and corpsmen can assist those they were not able to earlier.

“We’re sailors first,” said Seaman Seth B. Andersen, BHC hospital corpsman and course participant. “We have to make sure the mission succeeds. If we see someone down and screaming, another whose down gasping

for air, we can get that person who’s screaming, who has a clear airway, back into the fight to end a firefight quicker and spend more time assisting the others who need help.”

A few of the participants needed help to strip away the EMT side of their thinking after it was drilled into them during their military occupational specialty school.

“I’m an EMT, and one of the first things we’re taught is clearing an airway along with aligning a patient’s cervical spine,” said Seaman Estephani E. Torresvillanueva, BHC aerospace medical technician and course participant. “That was the biggest thing for me, not doing a C-spine and not worrying about the airway.”

Some techniques corpsmen were trained in during the course ranged from hemorrhaging control, recognizing shock, needle decompression, performingatracheotomy and intravenous therapy administration.

Andersen said these techniques cannot only help in the field, but also serve to make more well-rounded corpsmen outside of a combat zone.

“We’re learning things

we can do downrange or in a hospital setting that can help take care of a patient,” said Andersen.

The benefits of this type of training are not only for U.S. service members but also for the local population in deployed regions. Two course participants are slated to deploy to Afghanistan where they are scheduled to assist and help with casualties.

“One of our corpsmen saw a lot of casualties there who were injured, but he knew how to handle their care and saved their lives because of training he received from the course,” said Gordon.

Though corpsmen were the only ones in attendance during the course, it is open to Marines as well.

Gordon said it is good for Marines to learn these critical life-saving techniques. Oftentimes, only one or two corpsmen are attached to 60 Marines in a company.

“We teach them how to save a guy’s life, and use their gear,” said Gordon.

Regardless of who receives the training, lives can be saved.

The need for such training will continue to rise as the corpsmen go downrange and apply the training.

BIKE FROM PAGE 1

anything will make you say ‘oh I’m not going to do it anymore,” said Britton. “When you get to that point then you lose that passion.”

The amount of training and safety, which goes into any dangerous occupation, military included, is key to how well individuals may succeed.

“The military trains professionals to fight and battle for our freedom, but we’re crossing the lines of so many similarities you can’t just get on a motorcycle without the proper training, you have to use the proper gear just like with a flak jacket and learning how to use your weapon,” said Britton. “You need that same respect when you get on a bike.”

Britton and Hoenshell talked to kids about safety and told stories to their fans.

“I was looking forward to an autograph session and being able to just meet an idol,” said Seaman Kyle A. Day, Strike Fighter Squadron 94 aviation electrician technician and dedicated freestyle rider.

To some, these athletes may just be another stunt performer on YouTube, however to others who are dedicated to the sport, these men are idols.

Jason Britton and Eric Hoenshell, two professional sport bike freestyle riders, sign autographs for Marines at the Marine Corps Exchange here Nov. 16. Britton and Hoenshell talked to kids about safety and told stories to their fans. To some, these athletes may just be another stunt performer on YouTube, however to others who are dedicated to the sport, these men are idols.

GUAM FROM PAGE 1

Guam after a month-long break.

“We’re comfortable and ready to execute the mission,” said McGuire. “Being here last month helped us out the most. We know where the hiccups and road bumps are so we’re anticipating a much smoother transition to flight (operations) and Guam this time.”

Apart from the constant 24-hour operations the biggest obstacle Marines and sailors will face is the constant rainfall in Guam.

“Because we do such a large amount of explosive heavy ordnance we have to put the aircraft away from all the buildings, the problem is there’s no cover,” said McGuire. “They’re out there 10-12 hours in the elements getting soaking wet. My biggest thing is trying to get something out there for the (service members) to get out of the rain.”

Despite this obstacle, Marines look forward to the opportunity to work closely with their sailor counterparts.

“It’s a great opportunity to work with (the sailors),” Sgt. Justin E. Hass, VMFA-115 Operations Chief and Aviation Operation Specialist. “They help us with training and help create more training opportunities. We learn from each other.”

Participants of Wolmi-do Fury are slated to return in December.

All train, no pain: PMO conducts escalation of force

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Provost Marshal's Office first and second platoon along with Special Reaction Team unit members conducted training on the use of oleoresin capsicum spray and other tactics here, Nov. 15.

"We try to incorporate everything the Marines carry on a daily basis into training to help them better prepare to respond to different types of situations," said Sgt. Kyle C. Hill, PMO SRT team leader and non-lethal weapons instructor.

In the morning, the MPs practiced their defensive and restraining tactics and were taught a class about use of force continuum. The MPs then took a test to recertify on the proper use of deadly force.

The classes and training the MPs are given focuses on keeping the MPs skills proficient so they can better perform their duties.

"It's good for (station) residents to know they have properly trained MPs out there ready to assist them in a time of need," said Hill. "If someone finds themselves in a position where they would need law enforcement assistance, Iwakuni citizens know they can trust and rely on trained and proficient military police officers to assist or protect them in any situation."

MPs then conducted a practical application of their earlier training using an empty mid-rise building inside the Monzen district.

Outside the building, MPs practiced using inert OC spray, which replicates the OC spray they carry on a daily basis, but doesn't make the body to feel like it's on fire.

"(The MPs) can practice deploying it as if in a real-life situation," said Cpl. David R. Alix, PMO military policeman. "If they were to get into a confrontation were they had to use it, they know how to employ it."

MPs lined up in two rows approximately 15 feet apart and took turns practicing their aim with the inert OC spray before pairing up and receiving brief scenarios they would go through.

"It's good for (the MPs) to get training for the various scenarios they may see, it makes sure the MPs are proficient in their jobs and makes sure their skills never diminish," said Alix. "Everything you see MPs do on a daily basis, they have to practice those abilities."

The MPs went through two scenarios: one of a military couple having a fight in their apartment and the other was a pair of service members fighting in their barracks room. Each time the MPs would go in, assess the situation and respond accordingly to how passive or aggressive the role-players were being.

"(The training) teaches all the MPs," said Staff Sgt. Mark P. Koenig, PMO training chief. "It not only gives them the classroom portion, it gives them some practical application time to effectively meet a certain threat with appropriate level of force."

The role-players would turn up their acting every time, going from passive resistance, all the way up to intending to cause death or serious bodily harm.

"It puts the MP in the situation where they actually have someone attacking them, it's a really good experience to teach the Marines," said Koenig.

After every scenario the two MPs would discuss their performance with a proctor who watched the scenario play out. MPs were judged on how quickly and efficiently they were able to take control of the situation.



Lance Cpl. Mico B. Young, station Provost Marshal's Office military police officer, uses inert oleoresin capsicum spray on Lance Cpl. James S. Huston, station PMO military police officer, in a training exercise that took place at an empty mid-rise in the Monzen District here Nov. 15. MPs lined up in two rows approximately 15 feet apart and took turns practicing their aim with the inert OC spray.



Lance Cpl. Mico B. Young, station Provost Marshal's Office military police officer, and Lance Cpl. Travis J. Weirich, PMO Special Reaction Team member, participate in a training exercise that took place at an empty mid-rise in the Monzen District here, Nov. 15. The Marines were practicing scenarios that involved domestic abuse and assault.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER



Lance Cpl. James S. Huston, station Provost Marshal's Office military police officer, practices using inert oleoresin capsicum spray during a training exercise that took place in an empty mid-rise in the Monzen District here Nov. 15. The inert OC spray allows PMO to practice their spraying accuracy without causing the burning sensation of regular OC spray.

Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Schumi, station Provost Marshal's Office Emergency Control Center military police officer, takes down Lance Cpl. Travis J. Weirich, PMO Special Reaction Team member, in a training exercise that took place at an empty mid-rise in the Monzen District here, Nov. 15. The MPs went through two scenarios, one scenario included a couple having a fight in their apartment and the other scenario, a pair of service members fighting in their barracks room. Both scenarios presented difficulties.

Station residents run through tobacco use to smoke-free future during Smokeout run

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Twenty seven station residents competed in the 36th annual Great American Smokeout 5 kilometer Run on the seawall behind IronWorks Gym here Nov. 17.

The run was meant to shed light on tobacco use and encourage station residents to quit smoking, dipping and chewing.

Community members took off down the seawall from the Navy physical readiness test start point.

Eighteen minutes and eleven seconds later, Tony J. Lewis sprinted past the finish line to take first place.

"I have never picked up the habit of smoking and I know that has played a huge part in my ability to stay as fit as I am," Lewis said. "If running this race can do anything to help decrease the number of Marines who smoke, then I would run it every day."

Duy A. Nguyen ran a fast-paced 19:19 for second place and Javier Melendez gave a last minute sprint for a 20:24 third place finish.

Competitors cheered on others who were still running. All competitors finished the race and received anti-tobacco t-shirts.

"It was a great race," Nguyen said. "Everyone had a blast and enjoyed seeing each competitor finish the run."

Lewis also received a gift certificate for the Marine Corps Exchange.

The Great American Smokeout is an effort hosted by the American Cancer Society to help smokers and other tobacco users quit, or plan to quit, in order to lead a healthier lifestyle.

"We do what we can to encourage Marines and civilians to quit smoking," said Alma S. Dickinson, Semper Fit health

promotions director. "It's healthier for their bodies, saves money and increases their physical performance for mission readiness."

According to www.smoking-facts.net, smoking costs the United States more than 150 billion dollars annually in health-care costs.

Dickinson said the 2008 Department of Defense survey of health related behaviors stated 37 percent of Marines reported they are smokers while 20 percent of civilians smoked. Eighteen percent of the Marine Corps started smoking after enlisting.

Quit kits, which included a stress ball for when times get stressful, lollipops for the movement of smoking a cigarette and a rubber band to fidget with instead of a cigarette, were available for competitors. "The more we can encourage station residents to quit or make a plan to quit then we can have the station at a healthier level," Dickinson said.

According to www.quitsmoking.about.com, cigarette smoke contains more than 4,000 chemical compounds; 200 of which are known to be poisonous and 60 have been identified as carcinogens.

Carcinogens are substances and chemicals which are directly involved in causing cancer.

IronWorks Gym hosts Tuesday Tune-Ups in the Crossroads Mall concourse the second Tuesday of each month.

This month's Tuesday Tune-Up was about tobacco use and education.

Tobacco Cessation classes are also available at the Wellness Room inside the IronWorks Gym here.

Tobacco Cessation is a four week course about attaining and maintaining a tobacco-free lifestyle.



Alma S. Dickinson, Semper Fit health promotions director, hands Tony J. Lewis, a competitor, a tobacco free t-shirt and gift certificate for the Marine Corps Exchange for winning the 36th annual Great American Smokeout 5 kilometer Run on the seawall behind IronWorks Gym here Nov. 17. Lewis won the race with a 18:11 run time.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Competitors run during the 36th Great American Smokeout 5 kilometer Run on the seawall behind IronWorks Gym here Nov. 17. Twenty seven station residents competed in the race. The run was meant to shed light on tobacco use and encourage station residents to quit smoking, dipping and chewing. The Great American Smokeout is an effort hosted by the American Cancer Society to help smokers and other tobacco users quit, or plan to quit, in order to lead a healthier lifestyle. According to www.smoking-facts.net, smoking costs the United States more than 150 billion dollars annually in health-care costs. Eighteen percent of the Marine Corps started smoking after enlisting.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Duy A. Nguyen, a competitor, runs to the finish line during the 36th Great American Smokeout 5 kilometer Run on the seawall behind IronWorks Gym here Nov. 17. Nguyen finished with a 19:19 run time for second place. IronWorks Gym hosts Tuesday Tune-Ups in the Crossroads Mall concourse the second Tuesday each month. Tobacco Cessation classes are also available. Tobacco Cessation is a four week course about attaining and maintaining a tobacco-free lifestyle.

Marines trade guns for swords during Kuragake Castle Festival



CPL MARCEL BROWN

Lance Cpl. Julius Hall, volunteer samurai, exchanges his katana for a local Japanese child's balloon sword during the samurai stage performance of the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Sunday. Event coordinators and local volunteers appreciated the Marines taking time out of their weekend to help reflect on such an important part of the local history.

Marine volunteers march off scene after the stage performance of the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Sunday. Event coordinators hope to broaden the spectrum of Marine volunteers over time, and in the near future, have a full squad of Marine volunteers during the event. The volunteer samurai reenacted one of the last gatherings held by the Kuga Samurai before going to battle a massive enemy force. Although defeat was certain, the samurai pleaded for their castle lord to allow them to go into battle and make their last stand in honor.

CPL MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Five volunteers from the station participated in the Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City Sunday. Volunteers clothed in full samurai armor paraded through the Kuga streets and reenacted a dramatic scene that took place in Kuga during the 16th century.

"I've always been a bit of a fan of the Japanese culture, and getting the chance to wear samurai armor is like a check off the life list," said Cpl. Christopher Gervais, festival volunteer samurai.

The volunteer samurai reenacted one of the last gatherings held by the Kuga Samurai before going to battle with a massive enemy force.

Although defeat was certain, the samurai pleaded for their castle lord to allow them to go into battle and make their last stand in honor.

"This is a central episode in history that our community cannot miss," said Aki Wakabayashi, Kuragake Castle Festival executive committee member. "This is exactly what happened in the community in the 16th century."

Event coordinators and local volunteers appreciated the Marines taking time out of their weekend to help reflect on such an important part of the local history.

"In general, even though they're nationals and native

here, it seems everybody has been getting more familiar with local history here," said Tsutomu Nakagawa, festival samurai castle lord. "So I am so glad and honored that the American Marines have an interest in learning the local culture."

Volunteer samurai rose their spears screaming, "Ei ei oh!" throughout the reenactment, a samurai's "Oorah," showing their castle lord they were ready for battle.

Several local residents praised the Marines' performance during the festival and devotion to the samurai role.

"The Japanese are modest, they are more relaxed when they perform, but the Marines motivated them to get louder and into it and that helped us a lot," said Wakabayashi.

Event coordinators hope to broaden the spectrum of Marine volunteers over time, and in the near future, have a full squad of Marine volunteers during the event.

"We would like to make this a new tradition of having the U.S. Marines and sailors as part of the samurai festival, and I hope this good relationship will continue in the future," said Wakabayashi.

The Kuga community is looking for any Japanese speaking service members interested in volunteering to play one of the main cast roles during the performance in upcoming years.



CPL MARCEL BROWN

A local Japanese volunteer ignites a traditional kagaribi to start the ceremony of the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Sunday. Event coordinators and local volunteers appreciated the Marines taking time out of their weekend to help reflect on such an important part of the local history. The volunteer samurai reenacted one of the last gatherings held by the Kuga Samurai before going to battle with a massive enemy force.



CPL MARCEL BROWN

Cpl. Christopher Gervais, volunteer samurai, gets clothed in a samurai costume during the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Sunday. Volunteers clothed in samurai outfits, paraded through the Kuga streets and reenacted a dramatic scene that took place in Kuga during 16th century. The volunteer samurai reenacted one of the last gatherings held by the Kuga Samurai before going to battle with a massive enemy force. Although defeat was certain, the samurai pleaded for their castle lord to allow them to go into battle and make their last stand in honor. Several local residents praised the Marines' performance during the festival and devotion to the samurai role.



CPL MARCEL BROWN



CPL MARCEL BROWN

Japanese and American volunteer samurai form a platoon formation in front of the stage of the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Sunday. Event coordinators hope to broaden the spectrum of Marine volunteers over time. Several local residents praised the Marines' performance during the festival and devotion to the samurai role. The Kuga community is looking for any Japanese speaking service members interested in volunteering to play one of the main cast roles during the performance in upcoming years.



CPL MARCEL BROWN

Local Japanese volunteers stand aligned during the samurai stage performance of the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Sunday. Event coordinators hope to broaden the spectrum of Marine volunteers over time, and in the near future, have a full squad of Marine volunteers during the event. The Kuga community is looking for any Japanese speaking service members interested in volunteering to play one of the main cast roles during the performance in upcoming years. Volunteer samurai raised their spears screaming, "Ei ei oh!" throughout the reenactment, a samurai's "Oorah," demonstrating to their castle lord they were ready for battle. Local residents were impressed with the dedication the Marines had for the samurai roles they played.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Recon COINops create change in Upper Sangin Valley

STAFF SGT. RYAN SMITH
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 8, 2ND
MARINE DIVISION

SANGIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan – Since the early days of their deployment to the Upper Sangin Valley of Afghanistan, the Marines of 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion have been relentless in their pursuit of insurgents, often fighting a battle not traditionally suited for their expertise.

With the use of counter insurgency operations, or COIN, the Marines are finding new ways to remove insurgent networks from areas and assisting local villages in creating the peace the people of this area desire.

“We’re going to go out there and get with the people...the population is the objective,” said 3rd Recon Bn. Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Travis Homiak. “We looked at the level of fighting that happened prior to our arrival and it was a very kinetic area. We are trying to ratchet down the violence. Previous battalions in this area had a very tough fight to get to what we are capable of doing now.

“By focusing on (the citizens) you directly challenge the enemy,” said Homiak. “The best way to disrupt the enemy was to gain and maintain contact with the population. The worst thing you can do to the enemy is to get with the population and show them that you are offering them a better way.”

The Marines began this deployment with traditional mindset of a recon mission consisting of intelligence gathering on the enemy and bringing the fight when called upon.

The overall missions haven’t changed. How the Marines are accomplishing them has.

“The Marines have done a really excellent job. They are doing things people don’t expect from a recon battalion,” said Homiak. “I think they get it. What has happened in previous deployments is the recon battalion has become a raid force...doing operations purely at night, performing actions on the objective, capturing someone and returning. The approach we have been executing here is fundamentally

different.”

The most difficult part of the transition from fire fights to COIN operations wasn’t necessarily the tactics used but a personal change in Marines and how business was conducted.

“I think recon Marines are better suited for the COIN mission just because we are natural intelligence gatherers,” said Sgt. Lynn Westover, a team leader with Company B, 3rd Recon Bn. “We just use our skills of intel gathering for a different purpose. It’s a shift from tactical information to more demographic information on the population and who are the leaders and respected elders of an area.”

“Some of the Marines are used to the missions we used to have,” said Sgt. Ryan Bizahaloni, a team leader with Company B. “In the end, it’s still about getting a job done that matters. We see the change in the way we interact with the people. We attribute the change in how we interact with the people making sure we are listening to their problems and helping when we can.”

In a counter-insurgency war, the trust and confidence of the people will make or break the unit and their efforts put in to restore governance and peace. Marines of 3rd Recon have gone out of their way to set conditions for success and allow the people to reject insurgent intimidation.

“The change wasn’t instantaneous,” said Homiak. “The first two months were hard and took a lot of patience on the part of the Marines. It was only until we gained the trust of the population that they started to see we weren’t here to wreck their homes and slowly they began to give us tips.”

The tips given to the Marines by the local citizens pointed the way to weapons caches, improvised explosive devices and insurgents in the area.

These tips helped Marines, like Westover, build a strong rapport with the villagers during his patrols through the area.

“We are not fighting a uniformed enemy; we haven’t been fighting one for the last 10 years,” said Westover. “The insurgents are blending in with the populace. If we have good relationships with the citizens, they will point out who doesn’t belong.”

The case was similar for the Marines in other villages as well.

“When we surged into the southern part of Upper Sangin Valley, we started engaging the people to find out what their problems were,” said Cpl. Matthew Chen of Company C, 3rd Recon Bn. “After that initial interaction, the people knew we were there to help. They began to come forward with locations for IEDs. They even led us straight to them.”

“I remember one man in particular who took me and my team to three separate IED sites,” recalled Lance Cpl. Joshua Smejkal, also with Company C. “These things were so well hidden...I don’t think we would have ever found them. One of them was a personnel mine packed with military grade explosives. That would have turned into a bad day for our Marines or any of the local citizens who may have stepped on it.”

The relationships fostered between the Marines and the citizens have enabled more progress for the area and have allowed representatives from the Afghan government to begin making similar strides with their people.

With previous 3rd Recon activities during Operations Folsom State and Sing Sing, the Afghan National Army was put on display and

has been essential to the bonds formed in the area.

The Marines conduct every operation partnered with their ANA counterparts and allow them to take the lead when dealing with the people and supporting the peace process.

The ANA bring with them the cultural awareness needed to successfully interact with citizens without upsetting them.

“The ANA face during operations allows the people to see their government in action,” said Westover. “They reach out to the people and gain more information than we ever could because of the language barrier. They understand the culture and are really focused on making life better in the area.”

The Upper Sangin Valley has so many dynamics to consider when dealing with the citizens of the area; from the dispersed tribes in the northern part of the valley, to a more interspersed collection of people as you get closer to the district center, according to Homiak.

“There is no standard operating procedure for COIN,” said Westover. “You have to be flexible to the people of the area and you see the differences of how they live and interact throughout the battle space.”

The Marines and ANA have conducted almost daily patrols to the small villages of the valley, and because of the security improvements, many shuras have been held in the area between local elders, ANA, Marines and representatives from the Sangin District Center in efforts to bring governance and stability to the region.

The Marines have been committed to bringing the local citizens together with their leadership from Sangin. The road from the district center was often regarded as dangerous and district leadership would refrain from traveling north to see their people.

The Marines decided it was time to break them from their shell. Using helicopter transportation, the Marines brought the district governor and provincial representatives to the base. More than 100 local elders, young men and children have attended these shuras, or meetings, to listen to their representatives speak and to air their grievances to the officials.

The ANA commander for Heavy Weapons Tolay, 2nd Kandak, reflected on the effectiveness of the meetings. “There is only so much we can do for the people. Sometimes it’s good to hear what the people want and how the government is going to support them,” he said through an interpreter.

“This is a very human-to-human connection,” said Homiak. “These [citizens] just want the same things that everyone else wants. They want to raise their kids in peace. They would like their kids to have better prospects than they have at this time.”

The counter insurgency battle has been a tough fight for the Marines of 3rd Recon, but through personal and tactical changes, the Marines have found the right formula for ousting an insurgency, and simultaneously bringing peace, governance and stability to the people of this once insurgent hot bed.

“The Marines have embraced the concept of restraint and the minimum amount of violence that needs to be applied,” said Homiak. “These guys just want somebody to talk to. Once you get them to open up and they get to tell you the straits that they’re in or how bad their lives are, the Marines lend them an empathetic ear. So, we’ve gotten a lot out of being nice to people.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Toys for Tots Collection
Toys for Tots collection is slated to begin Saturday from 5-7 p.m. The collection will be in front of the exchange Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Volunteers in dress blues are needed. If you are interested in volunteering, visit or call the Single Marine Program Hornet’s Nest at 253-4656 or visit or call the SMP Marine Lounge at 253-5368.

Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally
Join the Single Marine Program for the Annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally at the Hornet’s Nest here Dec. 4 12 - 6 p.m. There will be food, games, music, a static display of heavy equipment provided by Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and a motorcycle contest. Toys for children of all ages will be collected for the Toys for Tots Foundation. For more information call 253-3585.

at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts 7 - 9 p.m. This event is free and open to everyone.

Infertility Seminar
Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental clinic is scheduled to hold an infertility seminar in the Branch Health Clinic conference room at 5 p.m. Dec. 1. All interested personnel/beneficiaries are welcom to attend. The seminar will be hosted by Dr. Atsushi Tanaka, a world-renowned expert in the fiels of reproduction and fertility. Tanaka will be joined by nurses and staff from the St. Mother Hospital and Infertility Clinic in Fukuoka, Japan, to answer any questions. For more information, call 253-3485.

KFC Holiday Meal
KFC is offering 12-14 pound deep fried turkeys this holiday season. Orders may be placed five days prior to the pick-up date from now until Dec. 26. To order a turkey only the price is \$60. The price for a holiday meal which also includes four large sides and eight biscuits is \$75. To order, call 253-4915

Florida Marlins and the Mermaids Tour
Four players from the Florida Marlins are scheduled to conduct a Youth Baseball Clinic

and the Mermaids Dance Troupe are scheduled to teach a Dance clinic at Penny Lake Softball Field #2 starting at 4 - 8 p.m. Dec. 7. After the clinic, the Marlins players are slated to play in an adult softball game. If anyone is interested in signing up for the game, please call MCCS Productions at 253-3727. This is a free event and open to everyone!

Main Gate Construction
Roadway repaving at the Main Gate is scheduled through January. This construction will impact traffic weekdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. During these times, all outbound traffic will be redirected to the North and Monzen Gates. Pedestrians and bicyclists will not be affected. The visitor center will be fully operational.

PMO Lost and Found
Contact the Provost Marshal’s Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the station. Examples may include cell phones, keys, digital cameras, bicycle, helmets, etc.

Iwakuni Roadrunners
All service members and civilians welcome. Runs are Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Meeting place is

in front of Crossroads Mall. Time and length of runs vary. All abilities are welcome. For more information visit “Iwakuni Roadrunners” Facebook page.

Now on Flickr
MCAS Iwakuni PAO and Combat Camera are now on Flickr. View and download images from air station activities and events at <http://www.flickr.com/photos.mcasiwakuni/>.

Vehicle

1999 Mitsubishi Delica
White, 4x4, seating for eight. A great vehicle for the outdoor enthusiast. Looks and runs great, 120 kilometers, \$3700. For more information, call Lt. Donald Baker at (cell) 090-6161-0213 or (home) 241-4537.

Jobs

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 4-year degree, 5-years experience, U.S. citizen, able to obtain

secret security clearance, experience with military requirements, planning and operations. 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.

Part-time Dental Assistant Position
The dental clinic is seeking a certified dental assistant. For more information, call 253-3331 to speak with Petty Officer 1st Class Sean Bohl or Senior Chief Petty Officer Ron Hunter.

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 to be published. You may also submit a brief or classified ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or call 253-5551. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.

Postal Holiday Hours

NOVEMBER	
Nov. 24: Closed	
Nov. 25: Northside - Closed	Southside - Finance 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. PSC 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 26: Normal business hours/Finance & PSC 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	
Nov. 27: Closed	
DECEMBER	
Dec. 24: Northside - Closed	Southside - Finance 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. PSC 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dec. 24: Closed	
Dec. 25: Closed	
Dec. 26: Northside- Closed	
Dec. 27: Southside- Finance 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.	PSC 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
JANUARY	
Dec. 31: Normal business hours/Finance & PSC 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Northside - Closed
Jan. 3: Closed	
Jan. 2: Closed	
Nov. 25: Northside - Closed	Southside - Finance 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. PSC 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Emergency Phone Numbers

- Antiterrorism Force Protection: 253-ATFP (2837)
- Life, limb or loss of vision-threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.
- For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal’s Office: 253-3303.
- To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333
- Sexual Assult: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harrassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3556.



STAFF SGT. RYAN SMITH

SANGIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan — Cpl. William Port, a Marine with Company B, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, takes a rest during a security patrol outside of Patrol Base Transformer, Oct. 13. Port and his fellow Marines were meeting with local citizens in the area.

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
2nd & 4th Saturday 10 a.m. Seventh-Day
Adventist Sabbath Meeting
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult
Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy
Communion Service
(Small Chapel)
Tuesday 9 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday 5:45 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
1st & 3rd Thursday 9:30 a.m. MOPS

Church of Christ
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (Small
Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Service Fellowship

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

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



A local Japanese resident watches as a parade of samurai patrols through the Kuga streets during the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City Sunday. 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, November 25, 2011
7 p.m. Dream House (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. What's Your Number? (R)
Premiere

Monday, November 28, 2011
7 p.m. Dream House (R)

Tuesday, November 29, 2011
Theater Closed

Wednesday, November 30, 2011
Theater Closed

Thursday, December 1, 2011
7 p.m. Tower Heist (PG-13)

Saturday, November 26, 2011
4 p.m. Puss in Boots (PG)
7 p.m. Tower Heist (PG-13)
Premiere

Sunday, November 27, 2011
4 p.m. Puss in Boots (PG)
7 p.m. What's Your Number (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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday:
Corn chowder, turkey yakisoba, Chinese barbecue diced pork, red pepper glazed fish, pork fried rice, steamed rice, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, cinnamon crumb top muffin, blueberry pie, velvet pound cake, brownies, chocolate cream pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tuesday:
Chicken gumbo soup, French fried shrimp, sukiyaki, barbecue beef cubes, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, cauliflower parmesan, southern style greens, creamy gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, long Johns, banana muffin, lemon meringue, devil's food cake with chocolate buttercream frosting, brownies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday:
French onion soup, Chinese five spice chicken, Swiss steak with brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage with bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, quick cherry coffee cake, blueberry pie, white cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday:
New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, baked ham, macaroni and tomatoes, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas with onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, banana cake with buttercream frosting, macadamia chocolate chunks, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Friday:
Tomato soup, fried catfish, beef stew, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, Franconia potatoes, steamed pasta, succotash, broccoli parmesan, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, cinnamon rolls, quick French coffee cake, blueberry pie, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting, chocolate chip cookie, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Station children get ready for flag football season



Bryce M. Ruppel, 8, and Caleb B. Davis, 8, Scorpions players, wait for their teams to be called out during the opening ceremony of the 2011 youth sports flag football season at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday. Sportsmanship, camaraderie and staying active are several aspects that will be emphasized during the season.



John R. Baltazar III, youth sports coordinator, prepares to announce the flag football teams for this upcoming season during the 2011 youth sports flag football season opening ceremony at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here, Saturday. Approximately 168 children signed up to play flag football this season.

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Youth Sports kicked off the start of the 2011 flag football season in an opening ceremony at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday.

Team work and camaraderie were spoken about by John R. Baltazar III, youth sports coordinator.

"The whole youth sports program is wrapped around sportsmanship, which is the key point we're trying to make along with friendship building," said Baltazar. "It's another opportunity to experience someone else they may not know and just for the kids to have fun."

The desire for children to remain active and fit during the winter months were also mentioned as alternate incentive.

"It's time consuming," said Baltazar. "This age group from 15 and younger has nothing sports-wise to keep their skill levels tuned to when they try to go on the varsity teams here or back in the states. This just gives them the tool to at least learn something. It's that time of the year where it's starting to become cold outside and children do not want to get out as much."

Approximately 168 children were part of the ceremony as they displayed their team colors to the crowd. Teams were divided into age groups 7-9, 10-12 and 13-15. This is roughly half of the amount of participants, which take part in the other camps.

"The hard-core individuals who are really into football were the ones who showed up today," said Baltazar. "Football is not the ideal sport for Iwakuni's climate but there are children out there who really want this sport."

The children were not the only individuals preparing for the upcoming season, some coaches were interacting with children for their first time on a higher level.

"This is my first time as a head coach," said Alec C. Woosley, Steelers head coach.

"I was an assistant coach on a baseball team but the players were younger. It's a little different coaching 13-15 year olds; they're a little bit more of a handful, but overall it's been a good experience."

The need to show restraint and patience were the key things Woosley told his assistant coaches they needed for their team to have a productive season.

"I said be patient, this is flag football, don't take it too seriously and don't get too into it," said Woosley.

The desire to play again and participate has some of the children chomping at the bit to once again step onto the field.

"Football is my favorite sport," said Luke R. Peet, Bears player. "I like playing defense and it's something I'm ready to get back to."

For some of children, football is a sport they have come to enjoy either through watching on television or their parents introducing it to them at a young age, such as Peet. It is through this exposure they also are able to help some of their teammates understand as they progress through the season.

"I'm the defensive captain and whenever someone is out of position, I have to make sure they're in the right place," said Peet.

Even amongst the young players, teamwork, a part of the reason for the season, was apparent.

"I tell my teammates play together as a team and fight together as a team," said Peet.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays are slated to be set aside for games during the next six weeks. The 10-12 and 13-15 age groups will have playoffs the last week and a half of the season which is scheduled to end on Dec. 17. The 10-12 age group is slated to take on Koba, an international Japanese school, on Dec. 4 as well.

With the close out of the year and season fast approaching, the youth sports is once again gearing up for the next season with basketball to begin Jan. 28.



Asia J. Sherman, 9, a youth sports cheerleader, shows her spirit as she shakes her pom-poms during the opening ceremony for the 2011 youth sports intramural flag football season at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here, Saturday. Approximately 168 children signed up to play flag football this season. The teams were divided into age groups of 7-9, 10-12 and 13-15. This is approximately half of the amount of participants who take part in the other camps in warmer months. The desire to play again and participate has some of the children chomping at the bit to once again step onto the field.



FREE!

*BBQ * Music * Motorcycle Rally/Contest*

Heavy Equipment Static Display Provided by MWD&I

*Bring a gift to donate to Toys for Tots.
Gifts needed for all ages, infant to teen.*

TOYS FOR TOTS

Open to all SOFA personnel.

253-3585 www.mccsiwakuni.com/smp

