

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 42 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Hands-on Hazmat training completed on station



MIKE COX

Two Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Fire Department firefighters are decontaminated after completing a hazardous-material incident scenario here Oct. 25, 2012.

SGT. JUSTIN M. PACK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

After four days of training and classroom work, 24 station firefighters tested their knowledge and skills as smoke billowed near an open cylinder of chemicals here Oct. 25, 2012.

The practical application, given by instructors from Bucks County Community College located in Pennsylvania, simulated a hazardous material situation aboard the air station and was part of the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni firefighters' annual training and re-certification requirements for Hazmat Technician Level certification.

"The focus of today's event was a full-blown (Hazmat) scenario," stated Fred Hashagen, Bucks County Community

College Public Safety Training Center director of operations. "It's pretty interesting to see the camaraderie and how well they work together."

During a Hazmat scenario, first responders must gather all the information on scene, determine specific tasks, determine hot, warm and cold zones, setup a technical or mass decontamination site and put together a plan of action. There are many factors which go into a HAZMAT situation, like what chemical or chemicals are involved, are there any victims, what is the weather like, which way is the wind blowing and how hard, and a myriad of other factors.

The Incident Commander is in charge of all first responders and the incident

SEE HAZARDOUS ON PAGE 3

Artist gather at Kintai Bridge for Festival

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF
EDITORIAL

Those who traveled near the Kintai Castle Saturday found themselves in a breathtaking scene of Japanese culture and art.

The annual Kintai art festival hosted many attractions, such as Taiko drummers, flute players, dancers, flower displays and the scenic view of bamboo lanterns lining the streets leading to the Kintai Bridge.

Imagine hailing a taxi from the station and making its way to the Kintai Bridge. As the cab arrives, the passenger gets out, and grabs a bite to eat at one of the nearby restaurants to pass some time or pays the 300 yen toll to cross



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

A Japanese man dressed in ceremonial attire performs for a crowd during the Kintai Art Festival near the Kintai Bridge Nov. 3, 2012. When the dance finished, the same location was later used to display a congratulatory monument to the completion of the Iwakuni Kintai-kyo Airport.

SEE ART ON PAGE 3

MCAS Iwakuni to rock with Saving Abel

LANCE CPL. B.A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The rock band Saving Abel, whose 2008 single "addicted" reached number two on the Billboard Mainstream Rock Song chart, is scheduled to

visit Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Dec. 4, 2012, to perform in concert for servicemembers and residents.

The event is scheduled to include a meet and greet during regular lunch hours.

Saving Abel's official website

states the show will take place aboard station at 8 p.m. and is free for servicemembers, with all ages invited.

The band, from Corinth, Miss., consists of five members: Jared Weeks, lead singer, Jason Null, lead guitar and backup vocals,

Scott Bartlett, rhythm guitar and backup vocals, Eric Taylor, bass guitar and backup vocals, and Mike McManus, drums.

The band's name comes from the biblical story of Cain and

SEE ABEL 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.

PSC 561 Box 1868
FPO AP 96310-0019
Phone 253-5551
Fax 253-5554

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Always Faithful'

LT. CMDR. D.L. WALLINGFORD
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

Semper Fidelis ... Semper Fi. We hear those two Latin words all the time.

It means Always Faithful or Always Loyal.

Various families, cities, military units and schools have used the phrase for centuries. The United States Marine Corps adopted this motto in 1883.

It characterizes a profound, personal bond between and among Marines, calling for extreme commitments of integrity to their mission, to each other, to the Marine Corps and to the United States of America ... in any and every circumstance.

Once one becomes a Marine, he or she is forever changed into a person of deep conviction.

This permanent transformation is exemplified by the phrase, "Once a Marine, always a Marine."

Dependability and loyalty are two Marine Corps Leadership Traits that live in the heart of Semper Fi.

Others such as integrity, justice, judgment and courage, shape the kind of dependability one can expect from a Marine.

In short, this signifies a Marine can be counted on to carry out his or her mission with "true north" integrity until it is fully accomplished.

It also means a Marine can be counted on 100% of the time by other Marines, by the Marine Corps and the United States.

Marines are, of course, the President's Own ... capable, dependable, and unselfish.

Unselfishness is expressed by Jesus Christ, as the second greatest commandment. He says in Matthew 22:39 "And the second commandment is ... Love your neighbor as yourself."

Loving others as we love ourselves requires that we be dependable, faithful and loyal ... that we be persons full of integrity and character.

Always faithful. This applies not only to Marines on the battlefield,

but to Marines at home, in relationships with spouses and children.

When marriage vows are taken, Semper Fi is the foundation of those vows. When children come into our lives, Semper Fi is implicit in the caring for them as parents.

Always faithful. It applies to Marines and the ways they relate to our Japanese host nation personnel. To be an American Marine in Japan is to be a person of honesty, decency and character in every interaction with every Japanese person.

As we celebrate the 237th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, let us all commit ourselves again to these rock solid principles and actions, which brilliantly represent our country, the Marine Corps and ourselves personally.

As a Navy chaplain who has the honor to serve with Marines, I heartily applaud the true essence of Semper Fi. Thank you for being an illustration of Jesus' second greatest commandment of loving others as we love ourselves, exemplified in Semper Fi.

November Promotions

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.

Brown, Christopher M.
Campanello, Curtis J.
Feliciano, Eduardo I.
Watts, Marquis T.

Cpl.

Artap, Marc Joseph A.
Sanchez III, Bernardo R.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.

Andrews, Corey S.
Arnett, Branden M.
Bader, James T.
Black Jr., Yancy G.
Blodgett, Austin L.
Boyet, Thomas T.
Calderon, Derbi E.
Corder, Nathan T.
Escibano Jr., Jose M.
Hunter, Anthony L.
Johnson, Michael S.
King, Phillip R.
Lee, Quenly Y.
Mallettbrown, William J.
McClure, Arien K.
Olter, Travis
Post, Nicholas H.
Rooney, Angel L.
Stalker, Moriah L.
Wrangle, Nicholas D.
Wu, Jiaying

Cpl.

Garland, Christian P.
Horst, Stetsyn T.
James, Dustin L.
Martinez, Sebastian M.
Moore Jr., David E.
Moran, Jesse R.
Sewer, Pierson S.

Sgt.

Young, Keith G.

Staff Sgt.

Zwierzynski, Joseph C.

Master Sgt.

Cosby, Nathaniel L.

MACS-4 Det B

Cpl.

Jiang, Leagkwei
Vela, Randy S.

Sgt.

Soto Jr., Juan A.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.

Berry, Malcolm A.
Hummel, Justin L.
Stueck, Bryan L.

Sgt.

Carrasco, Victor

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.

Alvarezserrano, Daniel
Beck, James R.
Davis, Hamadi R.
Dykstra, Edward A.
Hairston, Cory J.
Lee, Ikei J.
Nale, Trenton R.
Romine, Joseph R.
Rondeau, Stephen T.
Timmons, Thomas W.
Toomer, Dereck M.

Cpl.

Phillips, Eric M.
Stapleton, James M.

Sgt.

Berger, Jason A.

Doyle, Matthew L.
Valencia, Geovani
Yera Jr., Nelson

Staff Sgt.

Elder, Isaac B.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.

Dane, Christopher N.
Figueroa, Denisse G.
Gerken, Mitchell B.
Hernandez, Emanuel M.
King, Javier F.
Patrick, Conn R.
Plummer, RJ N.

Cpl.

Adrian, Eric J.
Cornier Jr., Calixto J.
Harris, Justin W.
Peterson, Benjamin F.
Ward, Devin J.

Staff Sgt.

Criqui, Julia H.

Gunnery Sgt.

Holladay, Chad R.

MAG-12

Lance Cpl.

Arocho, Luis A.
Baron, Shelby K.
Collins, Kyle E.
Domenech, Devon D.
Ebert, Matthew A.
Emrick, Steven L.
Evers, Joshua G.
Frimpong, Andrews S.
Gerardo, Aaron R.

Cpl.

Lyday, Andrea R.
Robasciotti, Thomas R.

ABEL FROM PAGE 1

Abel, in which Cain killed his brother, Abel. Band member, Jason Null, searched the internet for the story and said the name, "Just jumped out at him."

Saving Abel is on tour to promote their new album, "Bringing Down the Giant," which hit shelves in the states July 17, 2012.

Saving Abel released three albums, the first in 2008. The album also rose to number 49 on the Billboard 200 Jan. 15, 2009. Other hits of Saving Abel are "Miss America" and "Bringing Down the Giant."

Saving Abel performed with many well-known musical acts such as Papa Roach, Drowning

Pool and Nickelback.

Saving Abel formed in 2004 and members say they have always been fans of playing for the military.

"I don't care if I'm playing in front of 75,000 people when you can't see everyone's faces; the important thing is that there's one person out there that's enjoying the music and that moment we are in together," said Weeks in his official biography. "If we can get that one person's attention? Man, that does it for me! It makes me feel like everything I'm doing isn't in vain or done for no reason."

Saving Abel stayed true to their word by performing in places such as Kuwait and Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.



LANCE CPL. B.A. STEVENS
Saving Abel is scheduled to visit Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni on Dec. 4, 2012. The band is set to perform at 8 p.m. and is slated to have a meet and greet at the Marine Lounge during lunch hours.

MCCS will provide more information in the coming weeks as scheduling for the event continues.

ART FROM PAGE 1

the Kintai Bridge and grab some ice cream. Then, he travels through the park and sees the sights.

As night falls, lights on the other side of the Kintai Bridge can be seen in the distance.

So, the bridge is crossed again to investigate. Carved bamboo lanterns with candles inside line the streets; drummers assemble across

the street in traditional attire as they make their way to the first arch of the Kintai Bridge. Cameras flash as the performers beat their drums, dance and sing in unison as the crowd is struck speechless with awe.

Set in an exhibition on its own, a monument of sorts stands dedicated to the opening of the new Iwakuni Kintai-kyo Airport.

A vibrant display of candles, lit and hidden, in the depths of hollowed bamboo lanterns

create the dimly-lit atmosphere as the candles illuminate an inflated balloon airplane hung above the congratulatory sign. The castle and bridge are alluring sights on their own accord and attract numbers too many to count each year. Though it cannot be determined if everyone enjoyed the festival, one could find it hard to resist the sounds of the drums in the distance calling passers-by ever closer.

Annual training breaks through language barrier

HAZARDOUS FROM PAGE 1

itself. Once the situation is assessed, the IC delegates tasks to the Operations Section Leader, reconnaissance teams, and decontamination teams in order to safely mitigate the incident.

"It is important that first responders are trained, equipped and sustained in order to operate at the hazmat technician level, so they can provide successful mitigation of Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and high yield explosive incidents in support of MCAS Iwakuni and its missions," said Michael Cox, Installation CBRNE Protection Officer. "The training and the subsequent scenario were invaluable in assessing the level of retention and reinforcing the comprehensive knowledge, capabilities, and abilities of the participants when encountering an unknown CBRNE incident."

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's Fire Department, a group of 39 Japanese and two Americans, had 24 of its members spend the past two weeks going over Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations and re-certification for Hazmat Technician.

The training, which is the same throughout the world, was hands-on and comprehensive. The three instructors, who are based in Newton, Pa., and do not speak Japanese, used a translator to get their messages and training across.

"It was great to defeat that barrier of language," said Hashagen, a 25 year fire-service veteran. "This training is necessary every year so you can stay up on all the equipment, your meters, the process by which you go through, and what you need to



MIKE COX
Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Fire Department firefighters verify other firefighters are clean after completing the technical decontamination portion of a hazardous-materials training exercise here Oct. 25, 2012. Twenty four of the fire department's 41 fire fighters completed the course.

do to be able to process through it."

The Department of Defense contracted Bucks County Community College to train and test all their Hazmat certified first responders across the globe.

"We have in-house Hazmat training every month," said Fukii Takuya, MCAS Iwakuni Fire Department Deputy Fire

Chief and 27-year fire-service veteran. "However, that is in-house training, so this type of training is different, because the instructor is here and they teach us and assist us and they vary our training, so that is good for us."

With seven chemical plants within a three-mile radius of MCAS Iwakuni, threat of a situation is not unfounded. An

accident at any one of those plants could affect the station, depending on the chemicals involved, weather and wind direction.

Training conducted by the MCAS Iwakuni Fire Department these past two weeks will help ensure station first responders are ready and prepared to help station residents safe.

STATION RESIDENTS, VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT OPERATION: COMFORT AND CARE

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Family Team Building hosted Operation: Comfort and Care collections in front of the Marine Corps Exchange, Commissary and the southside Marine Mart here Nov. 2-4, 2012.

They also spent several hours on Nov. 6, packaging the collections made from the previous days.

Operation: Comfort and Care afforded station residents an opportunity to give forward-deployed servicemembers items such as hygiene gear, food, entertainment items and other miscellaneous products.

"We are out here collecting donations and a list of items is provided," said Ben Singleton, MCFTB director. "It is for deployed servicemembers, who are currently in Afghanistan. Once all the items have been collected, we will ship them out."

Station residents who donated items had two options, they were able to donate to all forward-deployed servicemembers or they could write specific names and addresses.

The names and addresses provided will receive care packages directly. After volunteers boxed up the specified servicemembers' care packages, they packed and

shipped the remainder of the items to deployed units. It will then be up to the units to distribute the items received.

"Hygiene products are very big," said Singleton. "Foot powder, baby wipes, deodorant and things like that are most common. Also food products, a lot of people have donated beef jerky, gum and powder drinks."

Many servicemembers from units all over the station volunteered their time to collect and package donated items.

The volunteers who worked four hours or more throughout Operation: Comfort and Care will receive a Letter of Appreciation as well as volunteer hours.

"I think it is good that we help out because when you are deployed, you get stressed and you want to know that there are people who care about you and want to help you out while you are in that situation," said Lance Cpl. Joanna Reynoso, Operation: Comfort and Care volunteer and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 administrative clerk.

According to the Operation: Comfort and Care website, volunteers sort, package and mail care packages, which, throughout the United States and bases overseas, equal up to 20,000-pounds worth of donated items.



Marine Corps Family Team Building set boxes up for Operation: Comfort and Care in front of the Commissary, Marine Corps Exchange and southside Marine Mart here for servicemembers to put donated items Nov. 2-4, 2012. Food and hygiene products were the two most common donated items.



Lance Cpl. Michael Perez, an Operation: Comfort and Care volunteer and Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 12 aircraft maintenance support equipment electrician/refrigeration mechanic, hands station residents the wish list of items to donate, in front of the Marine Corps Exchange here Nov. 3, 2012. Overall, Operation: Comfort and Care collects up to 20,000 pounds worth of donated items throughout the United States and overseas bases.



Operation: Comfort and Care volunteers Pfc. Jeremy Angulo, a Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 12 supply mobile material division driver, and Lance Cpl. Joanna Reynoso, a MALS-12 administration clerk, put donated items into the correct box in front of the Marine Corps Exchange here Nov. 3, 2012. Station residents donated many different items, including hygiene products, food, entertainment items and other miscellaneous products.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Hiroshima: full of historic sightseeing locations

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Hiroshima has come a long way since 1945. Now, Hiroshima is referred to as the "City of Peace" and is booming with touristic opportunities. Hiroshima is an ancient and captivating city full of history.

Most notably, Hiroshima is one of only two cities in history in which nuclear weapons were detonated during war. The U.S. dropped the atomic bomb "Little Boy" there Aug. 6, 1945, leveling nearly 70 percent of the city and ultimately killing between 90,000 and 140,000 people.

One of the most frequented sites in Hiroshima is the Atomic Bomb (Genbaku) Dome. This location was once the Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall. The bomb, aimed at the Aoi Bridge, detonated near the hall. The blast left some of the walls of the hall standing, while everything around turned to ash. Hiroshima City made the decision in 1966 to preserve the hall. In 1996, it became a United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site.

Another popular place to visit is the Peace Memorial Park.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum stands at the south end of the park, made up of two buildings. In one building, the museum shows Hiroshima before and after the bombing, as well as the development of the atomic bomb. In the other, graphic displays and artifacts show the devastation of that fateful day.

The Children's Peace Monument was built in the likeness of Sadako Sasaki, a 12-year-old girl who died of leukemia 10 years after the bombing. Today, Sasaki's monument serves as a symbol of the innocent victims of war. According to popular Japanese belief, by folding 1,000 paper cranes, a person will receive a wish. Sasaki began folding cranes, but died of her illness Oct. 25, 1955. Some believe Sasaki was unable to finish the 1,000 cranes and her classmates finished for her.

However, others believe she folded more than 1,000 cranes and still her wish of recovery did not come true. Although conflicting beliefs of what really happened continue to circulate, it is certain her innocence never perished and continues to reach the hearts of visitors from all over the globe.

Another site in the area is the Flame of Peace. This was built to soothe the souls of those lost in the bombing and pray for world peace. This flame was lit in 1964 and has remained lit ever since. The will flame continue to burn until the world is free of nuclear weapons.

The Hiroshima Castle is another location visited by tourists and locals alike. This castle, although officially named Hiroshima Castle, is also known by its nickname of "Rijo" or "Carp Castle."

Originally built in 1591, this castle was

one of the few that lasted through the 20th century.

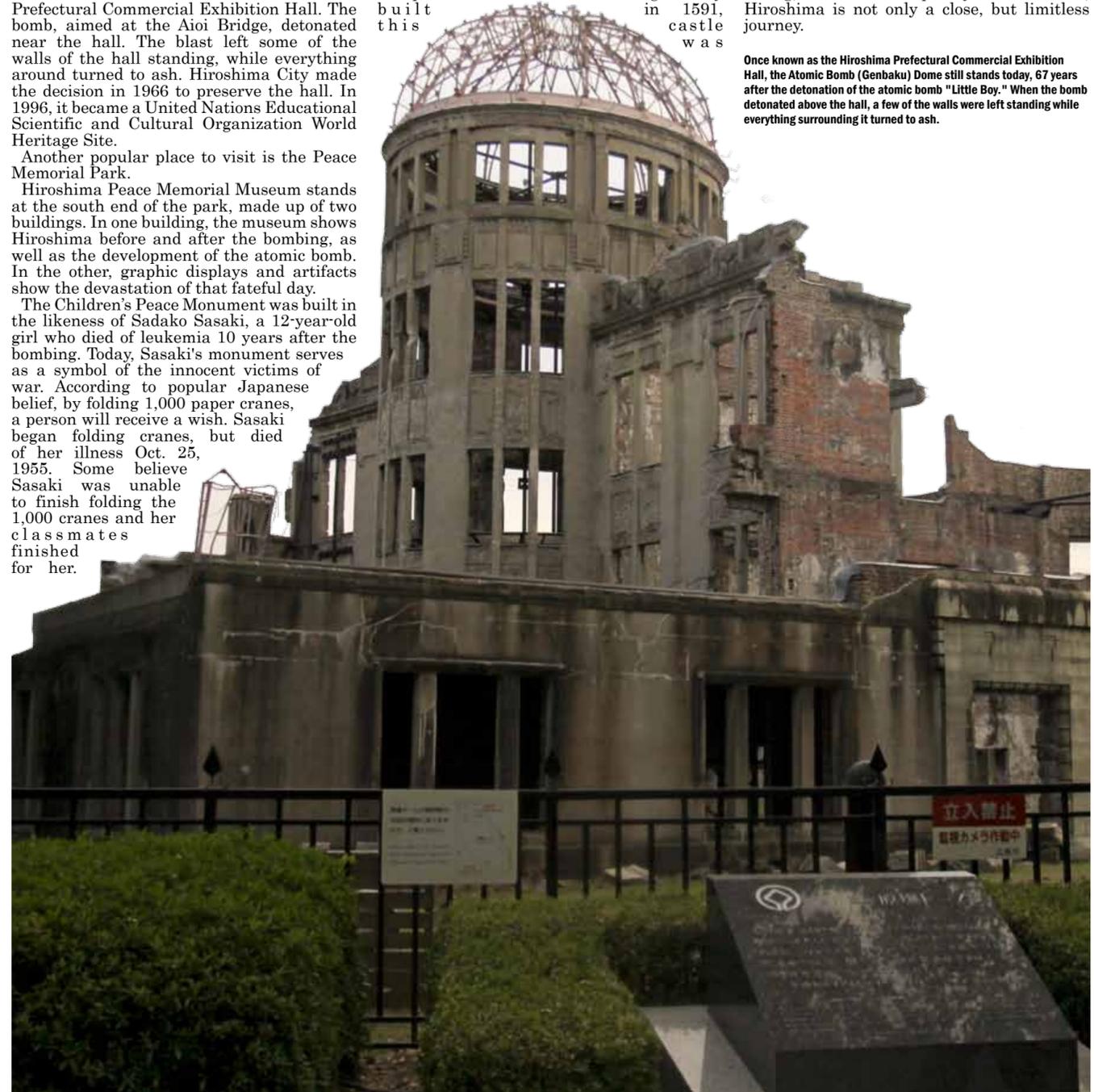
In 1931, the castle was declared a national treasure, but later damaged by the atomic bomb. The castle in its place is a reconstruction built in 1958 and serves as a museum of Hiroshima's history prior to World War II.

There are many other places to visit within Hiroshima including Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum, Shukkeien (historic garden), river cruises and more.

Hiroshima also features hundreds of restaurants and pubs as well as the Hiroshima Carp's baseball team, who play at the Mazda stadium.

Between historical sites, shopping and dining, and contemporary architecture, Hiroshima is not only a close, but limitless journey.

Once known as the Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall, the Atomic Bomb (Genbaku) Dome still stands today, 67 years after the detonation of the atomic bomb "Little Boy." When the bomb detonated above the hall, a few of the walls were left standing while everything surrounding it turned to ash.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Little island in sea swells with ceremonial purpose

Itsukushima provides wealth of attractions for hopeful adventurers



Two Itsukushima visitors, dressed as Samurai, stand together on the shore of Itsukushima, Nov. 4, 2012. Itsukushima, more commonly known as Miyajima Island, has many sights, scenic routes for locals and tourists and many opportunities to taste the local Japanese food.

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Itsukushima may not sound familiar to many station residents, but it's a location many can visit in their travels throughout Japan, considering it is no more than an approximate 25-minute train ride from Iwakuni Station, plus the time required for the ferry ride out to the island.

Itsukushima, located in Hiroshima Bay's northwest corner as part of the city of Hatsukaichi, resides in Hiroshima prefecture. It is decorated with an abundance of sights and scenic routes for locals and tourists.

One of the most famous locales on the island is the Itsukushima Shrine, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization world heritage site. Several

buildings and items within the Shinto shrine area have been deemed national treasures by the Japanese government. When the shrine was originally built, it rested as a sort of pier, overlooking the water, separating itself from the sacred land of the island. Pilgrims, and those wanting to approach the shrine, were required to steer their vessels through the large, orange torii gate, which stands unmovable in the sea.

The island is also heavily populated with Sika Deer, also known as Japanese deer.

Those who visit the island would be hard-pressed to not see or interact with any of the tame, yet inquisitive local wildlife. Made docile through continual human interaction, the deer have a tendency to approach and follow anyone who shows too much kindness in supplying treats.

Mount Misen looms at the pinnacle of

the island, with a maximum height of approximately 535 meters, or 1,755 feet. Whether choosing to use the ropeway, or make the trek by foot, one will find an observatory nestled on the tip of the summit, watching over all of the holy land below.

Itsukushima's maple trees are known throughout Japan, with so many covering the island along with it being presented as a trademark symbol in the land's tradition and commerce.

From pastries to dolls to magnets, cartoonish-looking smiling maple leaves can be found in every shop corner and souvenir store spread throughout the island.

With so much tradition and history embedded into such a small, yet lively island, there is little to no reason for anyone to not visit Itsukushima, more commonly known as Miyajima Island.



A child watches as two Sika deer play among the crowd on Itsukushima, Nov. 4, 2012. Made tame through continual human interaction, the deer have a tendency to approach and follow any persons who show too much kindness in supplying treats.



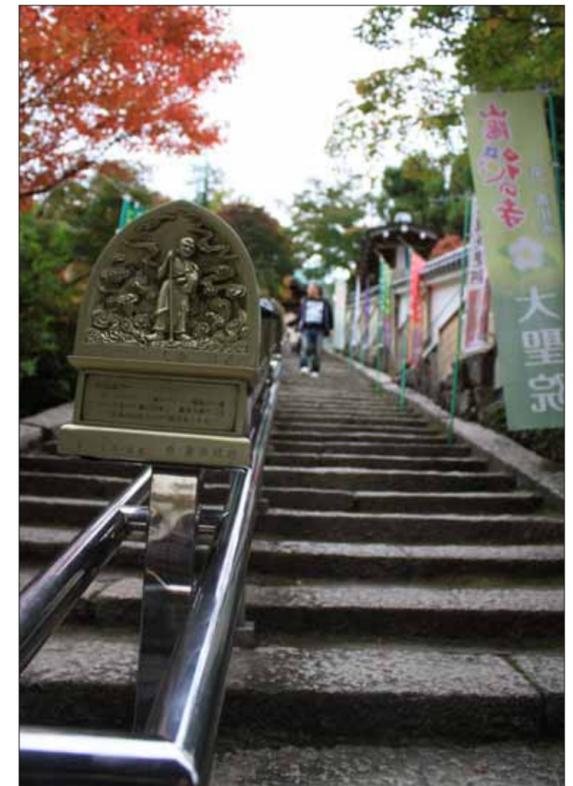
Stone torii gates stand over a path on the island of Itsukushima, Nov. 4, 2012. The island is famous in part for its abundance of maple leaves.

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER



Prayer wheels line the center of the stairway leading to one of the Itsukushima Shrines, Nov. 4, 2012. According to the Buddhist religion, a person who spins all the prayer wheels will be blessed with good fortune.

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

An Itsukushima Shrine patron walks down the stairs leading to the front of the Itsukushima Shrine on the island of Itsukushima, Nov. 4, 2012. Several buildings and items within the Shinto shrine area are deemed national treasures by the Japanese government.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

A circle of Jizo statues stand wearing red bibs at the Itsukushima Shrine. According to Japanese folklore red is the color which symbolizes expelling demons and illness. The statues can be found in different poses across Itsukushima.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

A torii gate rests steadfast in the sea off the coast of Itsukushima, Nov. 4, 2012. In days gone by, pilgrims and those wanting to approach the shrine had to steer their vessels through the torii gate.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. MEGAN ANGEL

Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit assist residents with clean-up efforts in Staten Island, N.Y., Nov. 4. The Navy-Marine Corps team is well-equipped to respond to national disasters when required, through the coordination of U.S. Northern Command. While the military plays an important role in disaster response, its efforts are in support of FEMA first and foremost, who coordinate closely with state and local officials.

Marines help residents of Staten Island



CPL. BRYAN NYGAARD

Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrive in Staten Island, N.Y., Nov. 4. A group of 20 Marines came to Staten Island to provide relief to those affected by Hurricane Sandy's damaging winds and flooding.

COURTESY STORY HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Marines with 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived at Staten Island, N.Y., via CH-53E helicopters, Nov. 4.

Working in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the New York City Parks Department and other civilian authorities, a group of 20 Marines have come ashore to Staten Island to provide relief to those affected by Hurricane Sandy's damaging winds and flooding.

"It feels good to help," said Lance Cpl. Antonio M. Medina, a optics technician, Combat Logistics Battalion 26 attached to 26th MEU. "We're trying to coordinate efforts with the local and some state agencies so that we can try to help with the situation, take furniture that's rotten, get medicine, whatever it takes to relieve their problems."

The Marines are moving

house to house through Staten Island, surveying damaged structures, assisting those in need of medical support and providing manpower to remove damaged household goods from residents' homes.

The Marine detachment from the 26th MEU is scheduled to provide assistance as surrounding New York communities return to normal operations and power is restored. The eastern shore of Staten Island has seen some of the worst destruction from Hurricane Sandy.

Homes were flooded, power lines broken and trees remain fallen on top of homes and vehicles.

"I can tell you that for as long as the mission needs us to be here or until we're told to move to somewhere else to help, we'll be here," Medina said. "The (locals) appreciate the help a lot. They shake our hands and say thank you. They even have offered us food in several locations but we're not here to take their things. We're here to help them out."

Many of the residents expressed their gratitude to the Marines for lending a hand. Salvatore Greco, who served in the Marine Corps during the early 90s, was excited when he saw a group of Marines helping with the recovery. "It's a blessing," said Greco. "The first thing I asked was, 'Where's my Marines at?'"

Greco's wife, Sebahet, said she wants to see more Marines helping out.

"I was hoping that the Marines were here. I was happy to see them here."

Water levels rose to extreme levels on Staten Island, flooding homes, business and cars.

Marines, operating from the USS Wasp, USS San Antonio and USS Carter Hall off the coast of New York City are part of a Navy and Marine Corps team that provides crisis response to anywhere in the world.

The Navy-Marine Corps team has the ability to land forces ashore by air and sea and is uniquely suited to assist local authorities in moving personnel and equipment.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Pass & Registration

The Pass & Registration Office, Building 608, will close Thursday afternoons for administrative processing.

Infertility Seminar

A seminar discussing possible treatments for couples having problem conceiving is scheduled for Nov. 29, 2012. Dr. Atsushi Tanaka will be at the Branch Health Clinic lobby at 5:00 p.m. and the event is open to all station personnel. For more information please contact Navy Lt. Torres at 253-3485.

Thanksgiving in the Barracks

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron is hosting a Thanksgiving potluck for Marines of barracks Buildings 313 and 314 Nov. 15, 2012. The event will be hosted in the 1st deck lounge of each barracks. Volunteers interested in providing food may register at <http://www.perfectpotluck.com>. Please make sure to bring enough food to split between the barracks.

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 are required to check out items, and the program is by appointment only. The lending locker is located in Building 411, Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

Unit Reporting Numbers

When filling out envelopes for Combined Federal Campaign donations, the required unit reporting number corresponds to a person's unit. Unit reporting numbers for the station include:

- 1480006-Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Health Clinic
- 1480008-Department of Defense Dependents School Matthew C. Perry Elementary School
- 1480009-DoDDS M.C. Perry High School
- 1480021-Defense Commissary Agency Iwakuni
- 1480031-Marine Corps Community Services Food & Hospitality
- 1480032-MCCS Services
- 1480033-MCCS Retail

- 1480034-MCCS Semper Fit
- 1480035-MCCS Marine & Family Services
- 1480036-MCCS Support
- 1480037-MCCS Miscellaneous/Executive Office/Internal Co.
- 1480038-H&HS Provost Marshal's Office
- 1480039-H&HS Logistics
- 1480040-H&HS Operations
- 1480041-H&HS Facilities
- 1480042-H&HS Administration
- 1480100-Iwakuni Friends

Club Iwakuni Service Disruptions

JD's Grille will have a limited menu due to the Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebration Nov. 10-11. Operating hours are 7 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Nov. 10 and 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Nov. 11. The Eagles Nest Bar will be open 5 p.m.-2 a.m., Nov. 10 and 5 p.m.-12 a.m., Nov. 11.

Stripes and Rockers

The Stripes and Rockers Enlisted Spouses Club welcomes all enlisted spouses aboard station. Goals of the club include serving the community in a positive manner and working toward fund raisers that afford the opportunity to provide

scholarships to Matthew C. Perry graduates and enlisted spouses with a desire to further their education. Meetings are currently taking place in community rooms. Meetings are scheduled for the last Wednesday of every month. For more information, join the Facebook page, "Stripes & Rockers Enlisted Spouses Club," or email stripesandrockers@hotmail.com.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

Put these numbers in your wallet and phone:
 • Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837).
 • Life limb or loss-of-vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.
 • For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.
 • Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For afterhours, 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 080-5865-3566.

Jobs

Baggers Needed

The commissary is accepting applications for baggers. Applicants must be 16 years old or older. Baggers work a variety of hours and shifts. Applications can be picked up at the Commissary.

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 you may 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.

Corporals Course: 500-13

Honor Graduate: Cpl. Joshua M. Nelson MALS-12

Iron Man: Cpl. Arthur H. Little

H&HS

Gung Ho: Cpl. Daniel J. Jones

MALS-12

Cpl. Holly E. Andrews

H&HS

Cpl. Steve E. Navarro

CLC-36

Cpl. Justin M. Anthony

MWSS-171

Cpl. Joshua M. Nelson

MALS-12

Cpl. Dakota J. Clark

MWSS-171

Cpl. Jordan E. Payne

H&HS

Cpl. Tremain B. Cleary

H&HS

Cpl. Luke F. Perry

VMFA(AW)-242

Cpl. Christopher A. Connell

MALS-11

Cpl. Khiel V. Rollins

MWSS-171

Cpl. Robert S. Daniels

CLC-36

Cpl. William C. Sansoucie

MAG-12

Cpl. Immanuel D. Garcia

MWSS-171

Cpl. Richard A. Sharp

MALS-12

Cpl. Daniel J. Jones

MALS-12

Cpl. Courtney B. Slack

MWSS-171

Cpl. Arthur H. Little

H&HS

Cpl. Steven M. Timmons

MAG-12

Cpl. Markieth L. Mason

MWSS-171

Cpl. Steven P. Wells

MACS 4 DET-B

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

BOOT SCOOTIN' ROUNDUP
 A live 1-hour radio show featuring the best country music. Kick up your boots 9-10 a.m. Mondays-Thursday on Power 157.5.

INFOTAINMENT

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Kanji Adventures: Kotatsu 炬燵



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

The "kotatsu" is a wooden frame covered by a blanket with a table resting on top. Inside the table is an internal heat source which keeps the lower extremities such as toes and feet warm during winter months.

This is accomplished through the use of the blanket or futon draped over the table. Kotatsu are found mainly in Japan. There are two variants of kotatsu. One is electric and the other, charcoal.

The charcoal version is a more traditional style with a pit built into the floor underneath the kotatsu separated by a grate.

The electric type uses an electric heater attached to the

underside of the table.

The kotatsu is traced back to the 14th century during the Muromachi period in Japan. It originated from the irori, a type of Japanese cooking hearth. Later on, a seating section was added to the design.

Over time, the cooking and seating functions separated even further and the idea of placing a quilt over the wooden section to keep the heat from escaping was implemented.

The kotatsu is essential to many Japanese households as built-in insulation and central heating is not as widespread as it is in the U.S. or Canada. As such, heating a home in Japan can be surprisingly expensive.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, November 9, 2012
7 p.m. House at the End of the Street (PG-13)
10 p.m. Hit and Run (R)

Saturday, November 10, 2012
4 p.m. Frankenweenie (PG)
7 p.m. The Possession (PG-13)

Sunday, November 11, 2012
4 p.m. ParaNorman (PG)
7 p.m. Lawless (R)

Monday, November 12, 2012
7 p.m. Resident Evil: Retribution (R)

Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Theater closed

Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Theater closed

Thursday, November 15, 2012
7 p.m. House at the End of the Street (PG-13)

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

General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$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.

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

Mon. — Thurs.
11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass

Protestant

Sunday
9:30 a.m. Lutheran Service
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
10:30 a.m. Children's Church
10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Meeting
1 p.m. Contemporary
5:30 p.m. FLOW (Youth Group)

Monday
7 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Tuesday
9 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
5 p.m. Working Women Bible Study

Wednesday
10:30 a.m. Ladies' Tea
5:45 p.m. AWANA (Bldg. 1104)

2nd Saturday
7:30 a.m. Men's Discipleship

Bahai

Sunday
11 a.m. Bahai Meeting

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.



LANCE CPL. B.A. STEVENS

A participant of the Birthday Swim completes laps at IronWorks Gym here Nov. 1, 2012. The Birthday Swim is an annual event and adds one lap every year to honor the Marine Corps birthday. The event originated at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., but was brought to Iwakuni in 2008 by Stephanie Brown, Marine Corps Community Services aquatics manager, and has become an annual event ever since.

Marines show amphibious skills with Birthday Ball swim & challenge

LANCE CPL. B.A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents showed their aquatic capabilities throughout the weeks leading to the Marine Corps Birthday Ball with a motivated swim competition, which took place at the IronWorks Gym here.

Marines often refer to themselves as amphibious, but it can be rare to see them doing much water-based training outside of swim qualification.

IronWorks Gym aquatics department provided encouragement to station residents to participate in water activities in the form of a birthday swim.

"The Birthday Swim isn't a competition or race, it's to get people in the pool," said Stephanie Brown, Marine Corps Community Service aquatics manager. "They do one lap for every year. So, this year, it's 237 laps. They have exactly one month to complete it, and the first 25 done receive a t-shirt."

The event originated at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., but was brought to Iwakuni in 2008 by Brown and has become an annual event ever since.

"I was looking for an event that was free for our customers, but encouraged people to come to the pool," said Brown.

Swimmers had the opportunity to use their preferred swim style and could also use accessories, such as kickboards and fins.

"As of right now, we have seven people who have completed it," said Brown. "We had one guy complete it all in one day, but for other people, it takes about two weeks, it just depends on schedules."

Individuals tracked and recorded laps by the



LANCE CPL. B.A. STEVENS

The first 25 participants who completed the Birthday Swim received a t-shirt. The Birthday Swim lasted one month and allowed participants to use what ever style of swimming they preferred.

honor system.

"Swimmers record the date and number of laps completed each time they come in," said Brown. "When they're done, my staff and I get the order that they finished."

In addition to the birthday swim, IronWorks Gym's swimming pool is beginning to offer more programs for swimmers.

Starting in January, IronWorks Gym is slated to start their Tri-Japan challenge. The goal of the event is to accumulate the equivalent mileage to the length of mainland Japan by running, cycling and swimming the distance. The challenge runs until September and will be a training evolution for the Goodwill Triathlon.

This week in Samurai sports

Fall sports at Matthew C. Perry high school seem to have taken a turn for the better.

With the return of the football team (as a high school sport, the school has been without one for the past few years) the high school has more spirit than ever before.

Football started out strong, with a record of 5-1, making them the Japan Junior Varsity champions.

Cross-Country

Runners came out on top this year, claiming victories like third place overall for boys, first place for girls individual and third place in the overall relay.

Tennis

Tennis has also taken the lead, an expectation for most at Perry. The boys record is 10-0-1, making them the Western

Japan Athletic Association Co-Champions.

Tennis claimed a championship in their singles and doubles game with Sam Cadavos, senior, taking the win for the singles game and juniors, Sam Hess and Gaku Lange winning the title for doubles.

Although the girls put forth much effort, they came out runner up in the WJAA league with a score of 5-5-1.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY FACT

Commandant General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. directed the celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday be formalized throughout the Corps October 28, 1952. Shepherd's order helped bring together the inclusion of a cake ceremony and other traditions held annually at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Nov. 7, 1960, issue of "The Torii Teller," Marines reported on the 185th anniversary Marine Corps birthday celebration observed by a parade and cake cutting ceremony. VMA-212 recorded 13,000 accident free flight hours, the adoption of XM79 grenade launcher and the completion and opening of the Gannichi railroad line connecting Iwakuni to Kawayama, Japan.

Corps To Celebrate 185th Anniversary November 10



COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

Today we celebrate the birthday of our Corps. We pay our respects to a long line of fighting men extending back to the Continental Marines who were recruited at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia in 1775. We recall their deeds with pride. We reflect upon the heritage they have given us -- a splendid tradition of indomitable spirit, high courage, and steadfast devotion.

Today, as from the beginning, our Corps is a vital element of our national strength. It is a strong bulwark of our freedom. It is old in achievement, yet it is young in its vigorous approach to its responsibilities. Its tactics, weapons, and equipment have kept pace with the nuclear age. But today, as in the beginning, its strength still lies in the individual Marine's readiness and willingness to fight -- to be the "first to fight for right and freedom."

And so today we celebrate our Corps' glorious past by dedicating ourselves with renewed vigor and enthusiasm to the challenging tasks of the future.

To all Marines throughout the regular and reserve, and to all Marine families on this happy occasion, the 185th birthday of our beloved Corps, I extend my personal congratulations and best wishes.

David M. Phoup



BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM CG, 1ST MAW

"On this, the 185th birthday of our Corps, we pause to pay tribute to a long line of Marines extending back through our country's history to its very origins. Whether we serve in the far flung forces with the Fleets or in the supporting forces of the shore establishments, on this memorable day we reflect with justifiable pride the heritage passed on to us by those who have gone before -- a history of selfless service to our country, a record untarnished since the First Continental Marine was recruited at Tun Tavern in 1775.

We cannot rest on our past record. In these times of rapid change, the Marine Corps must be prepared to face all challenges if it is to continue its role as a modern "Force in-Readiness". The basic ingredient which has always made the Marine Corps unique and unsurpassed remains unchanged -- the superbly trained, highly motivated, self-confident and intensely loyal Marine. It is our privilege and duty today to rededicate our efforts and ourselves to the task of establishing new laurels which can and will take their proud and rightful place with those of the past.

With full confidence that this same indomitable spirit will continue to inspire each of us in the ensuing year, and that our record in the future, as in the past, will be one of exemplary service to Country and Corps, I extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to every Marine on this happy occasion, the 185th birthday of the United States Marine Corps."

G. R. Kies