

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 46 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. B. A. STEVENS

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, stands next to distinguished guests at the tape cutting ceremony for the Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport Dec 9, 2012. Distinguished guests cut the tape and 1,000 civilians invited by the city of Iwakuni were given a pair of scissors to cut ribbon symbolizing the airport as a community asset.

Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport opening offers Iwakuni convenient traveling

Lance. Cpl. B. A. Stevens
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Japanese distinguished guest, U.S. servicemembers and civilians met at the Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport for the opening ceremonies Dec. 9, 2012.

The opening consisted of an indoor formal

ceremony of approximately 100 people and an outdoor ribbon cutting with approximately 1,000 people.

“More than 20 years of long lasting efforts of so many people in the community is finally bearing the fruit,” said Shigetaro Yamamoto, governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture. “I continue my full efforts to have the opening

of a commercial airport in Iwakuni surely deliver vitalization and prosperity in the local community and its development.”

The airport marks a significant completion in the Iwakuni community, but the work is far from done.

SEE AIRPORT ON PAGE 3

Marines meet Guam JROTC

Sgt. Justin Pack
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

DEDEDO, Guam — The room came to attention as the seven-person panel entered. The young men and women went silent and stood rigid in their woodland camouflage utilities like Marines are taught to do. But these were not Marines, they were high school students.

Five Marines and two sailors visited Okkodo High School’s Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps in Dededo, Guam, Dec. 5 to give a class about the military during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

“My goal is for the cadets to have some idea what real active duty is like,” said Lt. Cmdr. Denise

SEE FUTURE ON PAGE 3

Iwakuni medical, dental health clinic celebrates Christmas with special guests

Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Corpsmen and officers at the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic here hosted a Christmas celebration for the Akebono Orphanage Dec. 1, 2012.

Along with help from Education and Developmental Intervention Services, part of U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Branch Health Clinic hosts this Christmas celebration annually.

“We have Santa come, we exchange gifts, and we always have pizza, because that’s their favorite,” said Madelyn

Santiago, EDIS medical association recreation committee chairwoman. “We show them a little bit about the American culture of Christmas.”

Upon their arrival, the children received soccer balls and proceeded outside to play games with the BHC staff. Afterwards, the children and staff worked together in decorating a Christmas tree with ornaments, lights and traditional Japanese origami sculptures. The final portion of decorating came when Navy Capt. Moise Willis, BHC officer-in-charge, and the

SEE CHRISTMAS ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Watch Out! Who's Coming'

Lt. Fulgencio L. Legaspi
H&HS CHAPLAIN

One of the suggestions from the Department of Motor Vehicles' Traffic Safety Office is to "watch out" when driving; meaning to keep watch on the road.

The reason for this is to keep watch who is coming and/or crossing your way.

A watchful driver is an excellent driver who cares for his life, other's lives and the property of others.

During this time of the year, our actions and words are like driving. We are traveling toward something this holiday season. We are travelling into the season of advent.

The word "advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming."

In a few weeks from now, we will travel to meet Christ Jesus.

There is no "Christmas" without "Christ".

We will meet and greet him in

the Christmas of Bethlehem to celebrate his birthday. In the days to come, we will meet him in the never-ending Christmas of Heaven.

So, "Watch out" to prepare for his coming.

As we travel along the road, we will see signs that will catch our attention.

We will encounter sights like "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," "Peace on Earth and good will toward men," "Give Love this Christmas," and more.

There are activities like "Toys for Tots," gift giving to orphan kids and more.

There is one thing that is recognizable during this advent season, and that is the advent wreath.

Advent wreaths are constructed in the form of a circle of evergreen branches. In it sits four candles, three purple and one pink are inserted. A white candle is placed in the center.

The circular evergreen branches

symbolize eternity.

The four candles are representing the four weeks of advent. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time.

The pink candle symbolizes joy and is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday.

Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of advent.

The white candle symbolizes Christmas, known as the "Christ Candle."

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

What should we ask for this Christmas?

What should be on our wish list? I highly recommend asking Jesus to guide us to his coming at Christmas and to his coming in power and glory at the end of our life's journey.

So, keep watch and "Watch Out!" Jesus is coming to town.

December Promotions

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.

Arnett, Jennifer M.
Bahena, Eduardo B.
Blodgett, Austin L.
Bogan, Alexandria J.
Camacho, Julian J.
Castello, Karina F.
Franchella, Emilio R.
Hamilton, Kaitlyn A.
Jones, Ryan W.
Olvera, Raynaldo
Self, Justin E.
Therriault, Jerry J.
Vargas, Alejandro
Ventura, Gustavo A.
Wood, Samuel T.

Cpl.

Borland, Kyle J.
Burgett, Cory L.
Caldwell, Thomas H.
Coe, Christopher A.
Featherston, Daniel L.
Gholston, Arissa R.
Gomez, Fabian A.
Moran, Jesse R.
Teneyck Jr., David J.

Sgt.

Garcia, Luz L.
Noe, David A.
Santana Jr., Adam

MACS-4 Det B

Cpl.

Klein, Michael C.
Scott, Phillip A.
Tremillo-Felix, Edgar

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.

Angulo, Jeremy M.
Olvera, Raynaldo
Self, Justin E.
Griffith, Dominic N.
Hanuska, Matthew D.
Kinney, Miranda L.
Swanson, Christopher J.

Cpl.

Boyd, Aaron C.
Gevko, Bogdan
Gonzalez, Mathew D.
Hernandez, Francisco A.
Moore, Anthony L.
Peterson Jr., Leon

Sgt.

Davis, Cory B.
Galvin, Shane M.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.

Brunick, Jacob A.
Dix, Edward M.
Olimpo, Timothy M.

Cpl.

Foret, Haley S.
Horton, Whitford L.

Sgt.

Williams, Robert M.

VMFA(AW)-242

Cpl.

Bentley, Robert A.

MAG-12

Cpl.

Robasciotti, Thomas R.

MARINE CORPS FACT

Marines and historians have determined the true origins of "Ooh-rah" lie with reconnaissance Marines stationed in Korea in 1953. During this time, recon Marines in 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Company, found themselves traveling via submarine to where they were needed. The memorable call of "dive, dive!" sounded from the intercom and a klaxon alarm, which made a very distinct "Aarugha" sound, and would announce the descent of the sub below water. The Marines, who heard this sound often, started using it as a motivational tool during runs and physical training. Over time, the word "Aarugha" came to be too much of a mouthful, and eventually molded itself into the familiar "Ooh-rah," according to Maj. Gary Marte, a retired Marine. Confirmation for this version of the story rests with the official Marine Corps Training Reference Manual on the history of Marine recon, titled "Aarugha." The manual gives credence on the origin of the phrase with reconnaissance Marines.

AIRPORT FROM PAGE 1

"The opening of this commercial airport is not the final goal," said Yoshihiko Fukuda, mayor of Iwakuni City. "This is a new beginning. To develop a community filled with vitalized power and to make our place where different people and supplies meet and exchange, I continue my efforts to achieve that goal using the best benefit of having a commercial airport here."

Maj. Gen. Andrew W. O'Donnell Jr. spoke on behalf of servicemembers and their families.

"I'd like to say how pleased we are to see this monumental effort and labor in the opening of the Kintaikyo Airport. This facility represents prosperity for our friends and neighbors, it means an increased quality of life for us too. As guests, most of us come here from far away to live and work in Japan. The ordeal of traveling half way across the world has just been made easier. Kintaikyo Airport and all it brings to the community while standing firmly aboard MCAS Iwakuni, symbolizes the mutual cooperation and friendship of our countries. Friends and neighbors, we wish you good fortune and prosperity at this opening of a new chapter in our shared history. Thank you very much."

All Nippon Airways is scheduled to run four round-trip flights per day between Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport and Haneda, Tokyo International Airport.

With construction complete, the airport can make traveling for servicemembers and families much more convenient.



Iwakuni City Mayor Yoshihiko Fukuda speaks to distinguished guests at the Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport opening ceremony Dec. 9, 2012. Fukuda spoke on how the opening of airport was a new beginning for Iwakuni, but not the final goal. The airport marks the second commercial airport using U.S. military runways in Japan. Opening of the airport also signifies the reintroduction of civil aviation in Iwakuni after 48 years.



Navy Capt. Moise Willis, officer-in-charge of Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic Iwakuni, and the youngest child present place the star on top of the tree here, Dec. 1, 2012. The children and staff spent time decorating the tree as part of a holiday celebration that Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic hosts every year.

FUTURE FROM PAGE 1

Wallingford, a chaplain with Marine Aircraft Group 12. "It is a real possibility they could be in our shoes, and it's an achievable goal for them."

Forager Fury, which is scheduled to run through Dec. 19, is a MAG-12 training exercise which will not only highlight Marine aviation and aviation support, but also build community relations in both Guam and Tinian.

Okkodo High School's Marine Corps JROTC, started in 2009, has 214 cadets this school year. The program has grown each year and the cadets are very patriotic. When asked who wanted to join the military, more than half of the cadets raised their hands.

"Last year, four cadets entered the service. I'm not really a recruiter, however if they want to get into the military, I will help them," said retired Marine Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ernest Turner, the JROTC Senior Marine Instructor. "Mainly, I want them to do something after graduation. I want them to go to college, I want them to try to get into the military, pursue their career. Whatever their dream is, I want them to go in that direction which is really what I am pushing. We have three cadets that have already

enlisted this year and are just waiting to graduate."

Servicemembers spoke to the cadets about their experiences while serving, their military occupation specialties, what they do on their off-time, how school helped them get where they are today, and how their jobs in the service can translate into the civilian sector. The cadets asked many questions about where the servicemembers have traveled and what their best military memories have been.

"Cadets really appreciate the real live career Marines and sailors and this kind of exposure is really good," said Turner. "Everything was really energetic so I could tell the exchange of information was really appreciated."



Cpl. Tasia Wise, an Aviation Maintenance Administration Clerk with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, reads a book with a child at the pediatric center in Guam Memorial Hospital Dec. 6 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

Approximately 700 servicemembers will participate in Forager Fury on Guam and around 100 servicemembers will participate on Tinian. The MAG-12 training exercise will also include various community relations events on the islands.



SGT. JUSTIN PACK

Marines lay a stick placement template next to an M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear System at Tinian's West Field Dec. 2 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The template assists the Marines in marking the ground where they will drive in anchors to keep the trailer in place.

Marines prepare to receive arrested landings on Tinian

Sgt. Justin Pack
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands — Two M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear Systems were installed on Tinian's West Field Dec. 4 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

Eleven expeditionary airfield system technicians with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 worked the past four days to get this vital piece of equipment set up and ready to go.

"A setup usually takes a week, but these Marines really stepped up to the challenge," said Sgt. Fasa Sengphachanh, an Expeditionary Airfield System crew leader with the squadron. "This is only the second time the M-31 has ever been used on an airfield made of coral."

The M-31 is made of two trailers and is set in place with more than 50 anchors per trailer. When an aircraft lands and catches the cross deck pendant, the MCEAGS lets the aircraft run-out between 950-1,000 feet, depending on the speed and weight of the aircraft, before it comes to a complete stop, according to Sengphachanh.

The setup started with a surveyor lining up the spot for the arresting gear along the runway. After the trailers were set, Marines laid out stick placement templates and marked spots on the ground near the trailer to place anchors. Next, a soil test was conducted, which measured the hardness of the ground, before the placement of the anchors. The anchors were then inserted into place by a jackhammer and connected to each trailer by a series of turn buckles. After all this was completed, an inspector came to make sure it was up to standards.

"They are writing the books [on setting up arresting gear on coral runways]. A lot of things we determined [during Exercise Geiger Fury] went into their amplifying instructions," said Jay Mossage, an Expeditionary Airfield Service Unit Representative and M-31 site certifier with Naval Air Systems Command. "They have been doing great. If this plays out as well as it has been, it will actually be incorporated into their manual as a fixed set of instructions."

The placement of the M-31 is extremely important during this exercise, which will integrate MAG-12 into Marine Air Ground Task Force functions with a heavy emphasis on tactical aviation and aviation ground support in order to further develop a distributed, expeditionary capability within the MIRC. Without the M-31 and the Marines working it, there could not be any expeditionary airfield operations on Tinian.



SGT. JUSTIN PACK

Marines use a jackhammer to drive anchors in place for an M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear System at Tinian's West Field Dec. 2 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The MCEAGS' two trailers are set on opposite side of the airstrip 250 feet apart and will be able to allow F/A-18 Hornet aircraft to perform arrested landings every 3-5 minutes during the exercise. The Marines are Expeditionary Airfield System Technicians with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171.

Navy Dentists bring smiles to Tinian

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands — U.S. Navy Dental technicians provided dental assistance to the local Tinian community Dec. 3 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

The dental technicians saw numerous patients and performed a wide range of procedures in just one day.

"Today, we conducted 13 emergency exams, five cleanings, five baby teeth extractions, 11 adult teeth extractions and one incision and drainage," said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Flannery, a general dentist with 11th Dental Company.

After only a couple days of work, the impact on the local community can already be seen.

"It's really great when the [military] comes out and provides services like this, because the services that they provide are hard to come by on little islands like this," said Joseph R. Santos, a local firefighter and emergency medical technician. "It is vital to the community, vital to the island and vital to the Commonwealth Of The Northern Marianas."

The dentists have seen a wide variety of issues, some more common than others.

"By far, the biggest issues are cavities and loose teeth that the bone has resorbed and it can be very discomfoting

for the patient," said Flannery. "Some of these patients feel immediate relief after removing a tooth that has broken down so severely that it caused a real issue in their daily living."

Tinian has proven itself to not only be a great location for Marines to train, but also a location that benefits the local community every time they return.

"Hopefully, the Marines can come back and help us again, because it is really beneficial to us and our children, who need better care at their young age," said Lt. Rudeinn Sablan, father of 9-year-old twins, Victor and Victoria, who both received dental care.

The medical and dental care provided by Navy personnel is excellent training for the sailors providing it and is scheduled throughout the duration of the exercise, which concludes Dec. 19.

"It's really great when the [military] comes out and provides services like this, because the services that they provide are hard to come by on little islands like this. It is vital to the community, vital to the island and vital to the Commonwealth Of The Northern Marianas."

Joseph R. Santos, local firefighter and emergency technician



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Victoria Sablan, 9, receives dental care from Seaman Jeffrey M. Ker at the Tinian Health Center Dec. 3. Navy medical personnel will be on Tinian for the duration of Exercise Forager Fury 2012 to assist with the medical and dental needs of the local community. Sablan's twin brother, Victor, also received dental care in an adjacent room at the same time. Ker is an oral surgical technician for 11th Dental Company.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

A patient is looked over by Seaman Joshua M. Dalton (left) and Lt. Cmdr. Michael Flannery at the Tinian Health Center Dec. 3. The Navy medical personnel will be on Tinian for the duration of Exercise Forager Fury 2012 to assist with the medical and dental needs of the local community. Dalton is an oral surgical technician and Flannery a general dentist for 11th Dental Company.

Saving Abel ROCKS MCAS Iwakuni

Photos and Story by
Lance Cpl. B.A. Stevens
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Saving Abel came aboard station Dec. 4, 2012, to sign autographs and perform a live concert at Club Iwakuni.

The day started with single and unaccompanied Marines taking an opportunity for autographs and photographs with the band at the Marine Lounge.

Band members said they had the opportunity to tour with rock band Motley Crue, but chose to play for servicemembers in Japan instead.

"We don't get to do enough that is solely for the military. So whenever someone ask us to do anything for the military we just drop everything and do it, because it's not every day that we get to do that," said Scott A. Bartlett, guitar player for Saving Abel. "Fans are fans at the end of the day. Our civilian fans aren't risking their lives for the country. In the face of diversity, you have to do what's right and we are at war. You can either go play with one of the greatest rock bands of the 80's or you can go do what's right."

Bartlett wasn't the only band member who felt so passionate about performing for military members.

"Coming to these small bases and seeing how excited people get for some entertainment, I just feel like it's being a part of something bigger than myself and that is you guys," said Jared Weeks, lead singer for Saving Abel. "I have a three year old daughter and she doesn't even know what you guys do for us. When you're a little kid, you don't think about freedom and its value to us. You're over here fighting for my little girl and she doesn't even know you, and you don't even know her. But it's a call that you guys answer and we thank you guys for it and appreciate it very much."

Many servicemembers appreciated the opportunity of getting to meet Saving Abel and seeing a live concert.

"A lot of Marines are feeling down because it's the holiday season and they can't go home, so when you have a band come here and play it feels like a little piece of home," said Lance Cpl. Douglas Do, installation personal administration center administration clerk.

Saving Abel has traveled, but they said zipping across the world in one day was unfamiliar to them.

"It's really weird," said Bartlett. "We lost a whole day in the matrix. We left America, woke up and it's a day later here. But I heard when we go back we travel all day and it's the same time that morning, so we're just lost in the matrix and that's cool, it's just rock and roll."

Armed Forces Entertainment is slated to invite the cast members of the television show, "Sons of Anarchy," this coming March.



(Left) Jared Weeks, lead singer of Saving Abel, performs at Club Iwakuni here Dec. 4, 2012. Saving Abel is a southern rock band who recently released their third album titled "Bringing Down the Giant."



(Right) Scott A. Bartlett, guitar player for Saving Abel, performs at Club Iwakuni here Dec. 4, 2012. Bartlett performed with five hours of sleep after flying into Hiroshima and arriving aboard station.



Cpl. Nicole Brantley, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food service Marine, displays her meal to the judges during the Chef of the Quarter competition, which took place at the south side mess hall here, Nov. 30, 2012. Once judging concluded, the final tallied score held Brantley as the victor. Once meals were complete, judging was conducted by Lt. Col. F. Lance Lewis, H&HS commanding officer, Maj. Elizabeth Pham, H&HS executive officer, Lt. Takana Skelton, H&HS chaplain, and Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, H&HS sergeant major.

Chef of the Quarter competition sizzles

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

A potent aroma of delicately cooked cuisine flooded the inside of the southside mess hall Nov. 30, 2012, as the Chef of the Quarter competition culminated with a cooking contest between three top competitors.

"Our (Military Occupational Specialty) is kind of like a dying breed because not very many Marines are being able to come in as cooks, and retain as cooks," said Staff Sgt. Julia Criqui, assistant mess hall manager. "So, being that these Marines are given the opportunity to perform their actual culinary expertise for the crowd is awesome. Cooking for the Marine Corps is cooking in bulk, so you have to follow a master menu and you have to follow all these different guidelines, but this is actually giving them an opportunity to display their own talents."

The cooking contest is not the only challenge these Marines faced, the event tested every facet of their individual skill and Marine-like qualities.

"There were various steps involved in this competition," said Criqui. "First, there is the written board, so all the food service Marines, 3381s, were given the opportunity to do the test, and when the written test was completed, the three best

out of the entire group, which was probably 22 Marines who took it, they went to the next level, a uniform inspection, and an oral board. After those portions were graded, then comes today."

Even though only one Marine could win, the culinary tourney offered beneficial experience for all three.

"This helps the individual Marines by becoming better leaders, because they are showing the others they do know how to cook, not just in the bulk way, and it helps the Marine as well by giving them more experience and different avenues to try different cooking techniques," said Criqui.

Once the plates reached culinary perfection, they were set on display in front of a panel of judges, consisting of Lt. Col. F. Lance Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, Maj. Elizabeth Pham, H&HS executive officer, Lt. Takana Skelton, H&HS chaplain, and Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major.

Once the judging concluded, the final tallied score held Cpl. Nicole Brantley, food service Marine, as the victor.

"This means a lot to me, I feel very proud, and I'm really glad I put that extra butter on the grill, so I could fry the fat on my steaks," said Brantley.



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food service Marines and Chef of the Quarter competitors display their meals to the judges during the Chef of the Quarter competition, which took place at the south side mess hall here, Nov. 30, 2012.



Cpl. Tremain Cleary, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food service Marine, prepares his meal during preparation hours of the Chef of the Quarter competition, which took place at the south side mess hall here, Nov. 30, 2012. Approximately 22 Marines competed in the first portion of the competition, a written test. The top three winners of the test went to the next level, a uniform inspection and an oral board. The final test was a cooking competition.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Afghan border police conduct independent clearing operations in southern Helmand

Sgt. John Jackson
REGIONAL COMMAND SOUTHWEST

SOUTHERN HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Governor Naem, Helmand province governor, Maj. Gen. David Berger, Task Force Leatherneck commanding general, and coalition and Afghan National Security Forces officials visited members of the 6th Zone Afghan Border Police at a remote location in southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 9.

The visit allowed Gov. Naem, Maj. Gen. Berger and the officials the opportunity to see the 6th Zone ABP conduct a clearing operation in southern Afghanistan.

The operation, which includes four kandaks of ABP from both Helmand and Nimroz provinces, has been planned, coordinated and executed by the 6th Zone ABP commanders.

“There are several different things we are trying to accomplish during this clearing operation,” said Col. Hamidullah Sadiki, 6th Zone ABP chief of staff. “We are trying to rid the area of Taliban. We are talking to the civilians about government policy. We are also speaking to them about poppy and telling them why they should not be harvesting it. And we are also meeting with village elders to discuss what issues they have.”

During the past five days, the 6th Zone ABP has been conducting the operation and has had success accomplishing their mission.

“When we started this operation, the men had very high morale, and they were proud to be serving their country,” said Sadiki. “We have had very good coordination throughout, and we continue to keep pushing. We have found and disposed of 21 (improvised explosive devices). The men are very brave, and their morale continues to be high.”

While there is a small element of coalition advisors with the ABP during the operation, it has been and continues to be 100 percent Afghan led.



Major Gen. David Berger, Task Force Leatherneck commanding general, speaks with Col. Hamidullah Sadiki, the 6th Zone Afghan Border Police chief of staff, during an operations brief in southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 9. During the past five days, the 6th Zone ABP has been conducting a clearing operation and has had success accomplishing their mission. Major Gen. Berger, as well as other government and coalition officials, visited the operation's command center to see the progress the ABP has made.

“(The advisor teams) are here solely as enabler support,” said Army Maj. Will Garrison, advisor to the 6th Zone ABP chief of staff. “There is about 500 ABP conducting the operation, and this is the first time a zone-level operation has been conducted in Helmand province.”

Although this is the first time an operation of this size has been conducted by the ABP in southern Afghanistan, the results are exactly what the soldiers were hoping to obtain.

“We have had great leadership and

management,” Sadiki said. “I am very proud of my soldiers, and they are doing a great job.”

The small group of advisors embedded with the ABP is pleased with the coordination and execution of the mission, and they see the positive impact it is having.

“After seeing this operation, I think (the ABP) are doing great,” said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wilburn, an ABP advisor. “They have a very strong group of soldiers who know what they are doing, and they are making this country a safer and better place.”



An MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 prepares to land in southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 9. The Osprey is picking up coalition and Afghan government officials following a visit to a remote area. The officials were checking the status of a 6th Zone Afghan Border Police clearing operation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Substance Abuse Prevention

If you or anyone you know is struggling with substance abuse or are interested in more information on services provided, please contact the Substance Abuse Counseling Center at, 253-4526 or visit Building 411 Room 219.

Toys For Tots

Volunteers are needed for the "Toys for Tots" watch outside the station Marine Corps Exchange. The shifts are two hours long and take place Monday- Friday 4- 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. and Sunday 12- 6 p.m. Uniform for the post is dress blue bravos. If interested, please contact the Hornet's Nest at, 253-3585.

Jingle Bell Jog and Community Holiday Party

The Jingle Bell Jog 1.5K run is slated Dec. 21, 2012 at the IronWorks Gym parking lot and Sports Courts. The run will be followed by a Holiday party with food, fun and entertainment. Units, families and individuals are encouraged to dress in holiday costumes and receive a jingle bell to attach to their shoe for the run. Santa Claus, live music, children's crafts and more.

Pass & Registration

The Pass & Registration Office, Building 608, will be closed Dec. 24, 2012- Jan. 3, 2013 and will resume regular hours of operation Jan. 4. The Vehicle and Licensing section will be closed Dec. 24 and Jan. 1 Support will be provided Dec. 31 for vehicle registration and licensing. The Japanese Pass Office will close at 12 p.m. on Thursdays.

12 Days of Christmas

The 12 Days of Christmas kicks off Dec. 14, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Hornet's Nest. Marines may enjoy a different event

for each day until Christmas. Events include Holiday Trivia with hot chocolate and cookies, tournaments and games, and more. Game winners will receive prizes. For more information, contact the Single Marine Program at 253-3585 or visit the MCCS SMP Facebook page for events and times.

Christmas Day Buffet

Celebrate the holidays with an all you can eat Christmas Day Buffet Dec. 25, 2012, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. The event will take place in the Grand Ballroom at Club Iwakuni. The costs is \$16.95 for adults, \$8.95 for children ages 5-10 and children 5 and under are free. Reservations are recommended. For details, call 253-3363.

Leathernecks II Comedy and Entertainment Tour

The comedy tour is scheduled Dec. 21, 2012, from 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. at the Sakura Theater. Commands are encouraged to afford their Marines the opportunity to attend. Due to content of the show you must be 18 years and older to attend.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society provides Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

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.

Off-limit Establishments

The following establishments are hereby off-limits:

- The multi-tenant building "NOW." Tenant occupant's names change frequently. Past names for this building include, Ran, Massage Parlor, Welcome American, Follow Me and F-18.
- Hiroshima's Tougan Goods Company.

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 brief or classified ad, 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. Submit your brief or advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please provide all the requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for all submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday.

at MCX

FREE

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

December 1, Noon - 3 PM
December 15, 9 AM - 2 PM
December 16, Noon - 4 PM
December 22, 10 AM - 2 PM
December 23, Noon - 4 PM

Pictures will be provided to patrons free of cost

AXE UPS Hallmark Cards Unilever MCX SOME BRANDS CORPSE VALUE

No federal or USMC endorsement implied

Holiday Post Office Parcel Pickup Hours

December 14-21 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

The finance section will be open regular hours

December 24 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The finance section will be closed

December 25 Closed

Northside Post Office

Dec. 22-25 Closed

INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

December 22 Saturday	5:30 p.m. Mass
December 23 Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass
December 24 Monday	5:30 p.m. Christmas Nativity Pageant/ Children's Mass 12:00 a.m. Christmas Nativity Pageant/ Midnight Mass
December 25 Tuesday	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
December 29 Saturday	5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass – Feast of the Holy Family
December 30 Sunday	8:30 a.m. Feast of the Holy Family
January 1 Tuesday	10:00 a.m. The Motherhood of Mary Mass
Protestant	
December 23 Sunday	10:30 a.m. Morning Service
December 30 Sunday	10:30 a.m. Morning Service

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

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



Kanji Adventures: Chestnuts

SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

For many growing up in the U.S., chestnuts remind them of Christmas and are eaten only during the holidays or sung about in "The Christmas Song."
For others around the world, chestnuts are more common and can be found sold by street vendors as a quick snack. The Japanese chestnut, or Kuri, is one of the most easily recognizable tastes of autumn in Japan.
Unlike its counterpart, the American chestnut, Kuri is resistant to the disease known as Chestnut Blight, which is responsible for driving the American chestnut to near extinction in the early 1900s.

Nowadays, many of the chestnuts purchased in the U.S. come from Japanese chestnut trees and the tree is important for research to the development of disease-resistant hybrids with the highly susceptible American chestnut.
The chestnut is an incredibly starchy food and contains twice as much starch as the potato.
Because of this, the chestnut is an important food crop in China, Japan, and southern Europe, where they are often ground into a meal for bread making, thus giving rise to the nickname "bread tree."

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, December 14, 2012
7 p.m. Fun Size (PG-13)
10 p.m. Sinister (R)

Saturday, December 15, 2012
4 p.m. Rise of the Guardians (PG)
7 p.m. Taken 2 (PG-13)

Sunday, December 16, 2012
4 p.m. Here Comes the Boom (PG)
7 p.m. Paranormal Activity 4 (R)

Monday, December 17, 2012
7 p.m. Fun Size (PG-13)

Tuesday, December 18, 2012
Theater closed

Wednesday, December 19, 2012
Theater closed

Thursday, December 20, 2012
Paranormal Activity 4 (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.

253-5291

This week in Samurai sports

The Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai wrestling team competed at a dual meet at Sasebo Naval Base Dec. 8, 2012. The team lost 27 – 16 because of forfeits due to the lack of wrestlers in certain weight classes.
In head to head competition, the Samurai were mostly victorious with Chris Lynch winning the 115 pound weight class.
In the 122 pound weight class, Miles Saulsberry was victorious.
Hinun Crespin won in the 129 pound weight class and winning in the 168 pound weight class was Connor Hadlock.
Steven Brown forced a decision in the 148 pound weight class, but did not win.
The M.C. Perry Samurai wrestling team is scheduled to compete at Kinnick High

School at Yokosuka Naval Base December 15, 2012.
The M. C. Perry High School Samurai boys' varsity basketball team won the Western Japan Athletic Association Tournament Championship this last weekend against 3 other teams. The scores went 70-52, 67-53 and finished 53-22.
Notable players throughout all three games were Jon Cavados with 43 points and 18 rebounds, Sam Cavados with 49 points and 23 rebounds, Jarell Davis with 54 points and 36 rebounds, Dequaandre Bernard with 54 points and 36 rebounds and Toshiki Primus with 33 points and 26 rebounds.
The junior varsity team was also victorious in their first WJAA game winning against Osaka International 67-25.

The Samurai Boys' team is set to play a home game Dec. 14-15 against Yokota.
The M. C. Perry High School Lady Samurai basketball team was victorious in all four of their games in the WJAA.
The scores of the games were as follows: 41-37, 43-37, 30-22 and 50-36.
Notable players for all games were Courtney Beall with 97 points and 65 rebounds, Ashley Starnes with 13 points and 15 rebounds, Naomi Viola with 21 points and 3 rebounds, Jatoya Latham 4 points and 19 rebounds, Aliana Alexander with 10 points and 7 rebounds, Nichole Perry with 8 rebounds and Lakeyia Brown for scoring her first two points as a varsity player.
The Lady Samurai are slated to take on Yokota in a home game Dec. 14-15.

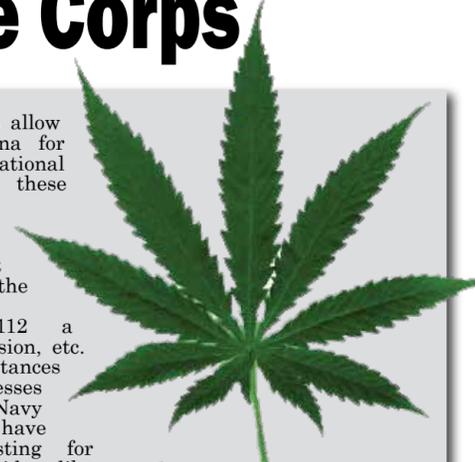
Colorado, Washington pass marijuana laws, still illegal in Marine Corps

Lance Cpl.
B. A. Stevens
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

At the conclusion of the election, Colorado and Washington made history by passing laws allowing the first recreational use of marijuana in America since its prohibition in the 1920s and 1930s. However, Marines still fall under the zero tolerance policy of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
Amendment 64 to Colorado's state constitution and Initiative 502 in Washington passed by popular vote in both states.
Colorado's decision surprised some critics because of split polls going into the election and Governor John Hickenlooper's vocal disdain for the law.
"The voters have spoken and we have to respect their will. This will be a complicated process, but we have intent

to follow through. That said, federal law still says marijuana is an illegal drug, so don't break out the Cheetos or Gold fish too quickly," said Hickenlooper in a statement on Nov. 6, 2012, after the approval of Amendment 64.
Marine Administrative Message 579/10 states, "We have seen an increase of Marines and sailors using substances to "get high," i.e. to induce intoxication, excitement or stupefaction of their central nervous system."
The MARADMIN goes on to state: "Many of these substances are not illegal under federal or state laws and they are easily obtained. Legal or not, they are reported to have harmful physical effects similar to those produced by illegal or controlled substances. Abuse of these substances, and others like them, pose a significant danger to affect the efficiency, discipline and good order of the Marine units."

Currently, 17 states allow the use of Marijuana for medical or recreational use. Even though these states allow use, servicemembers are still subject to punishment if caught using any drugs with the intent to get high.
UCMJ Article 112 a Wrongful use, possession, etc. of controlled substances directly addresses marijuana, and the Navy and Marine Corps have been randomly testing for synthetic cannabinoids like Spice since April.
The MARADMIN goes on to encourage leaders to inform their Marines about the harmful effects that abusing these substances can cause and punishment for use.
"A violation of these prohibitions will be punishable as failure to obey a lawful general



order under article 92 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice."
The order concludes by stating, "Leaders must educate their Marines and sailors about the dangers posed by the abuse of such substances and make it clear that such conduct will not be tolerated."

Substance Abuse Counseling Center

MISSION

The SACC mission is to provide substance abuse counseling to all military personnel who fall under the Department of Defense's Status of Forces Agreement. Personnel subject to substance abuse disorders which interfere with occupational and interpersonal functions should see assistance to understand how to maintain a healthy life style free from substance abuse disorders. Services provided enhance readiness through drug and alcohol prevention and education programs, outpatient treatment for substance use disorders, and referrals to other resources as appropriate.

UNIT SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONTROL OFFICER NUMBERS

Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron ■ 253-6456	Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ■ 253-6528
Combat Logistics Company 36 ■ 253-6422	Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 ■ 253-3993
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 ■ 253-3733	Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B ■ 253-5995
Marine Aircraft Group 12 ■ 253-5212	

If you or anyone you know is struggling with substance abuse or are interested in more information on services provided, please contact the SACC at 253-4526 or visit Building 411 Room 219.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday- Friday 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m

BY THE NUMBERS

5

Nearly 5 million prescriptions for pain medication, tranquilizers, muscle relaxants, stimulants and barbiturates were provided to troops last year, up from fewer than a million in 2001, according to Pentagon data.

16

According to a 2009 National survey on Drug Use and Health, 16.7 million Americans aged 12 or older reported using Marijuana at least once in the month prior to being surveyed.

17

Since 1999, more than 17,000 people have been discharged from the U.S. military because of drug use.

82

Since 1999, failed drug tests have increased in the U.S. Air Force by 82%, and in the U.S. Army by 37%

112

According to Article 112 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice Marijuana is still illegal for use by servicemembers, in or out of uniform.

Public Service Announcement

As Marines and sailors relax and unwind during their holiday and New Year's celebrations, it is important to remember that getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after drinking can have serious consequences.
While friends and good thinking can prevent most careless holiday accidents, a constant reminder is needed to help promote a continually safe and accident-free environment. Station residents will face severe penalties for drunk driving, ranging from fines to imprisonment. As well as risking permanent injury or death.
Just one drunk driver can ruin a person's life, or end it. So be sure to take care of friends and keep an eye out for drunk drivers.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Dec. 15, 1989, issue of "The Torii Teller," Marines reported on Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting training to keep the Marines proficient in their military occupational specialty, a Marine standing out for his comical cartoons which bring out a funny side to some of the most stressful situations, as well as an invitation from the Hash House Harriers to go out for a fun run.

Hash House Harriers

A run that's far from normal

If you're one of those people who hate to run because running alone isn't any fun, the Hash House Harriers have an invitation for you.

Every run by the "hounds," as they are known, is an experience and none of them, save the "hares," ever knows where they might end up.

"The two hares take off about ten minutes ahead of everyone else and begin setting the trail," explained Carlos Rivera. "The idea is to catch the hares, but this is NOT a speed race; it's all a matter of who can read the trail properly."

The hares, which change weekly, set the trail by using either chalk or flour marks of different configurations. An "X" placed at an intersection denotes a checkpoint and means runners must determine which road to take. The only way to do this is to pick a road and then look for three successive flour marks, but the marks are not always easy to find--they may be under a car, behind a pole or wall, or even down in the ditch.

If only one mark is found, the wrong road was chosen and another must be tried. The number of choices depends on the number of roads leading away from the checkpoint. An arrow with three lines across the tail indicates a good trail in that direction. A clean-tailed arrow means the trail is false.

Rivera said the runs usually cover about six miles in an hours

time, but those leading the pack may run a little farther due to having been misled by a false trail. "Most people learn as they go," he said. "We brief the new people right before we go after the hares and they pick it up from there. After their sixth run with us, we give them a hash nickname," such as Tinkle Bell, DNS (does never finish), Hash Mouse, Form Face and others which are quite colorful. But until their sixth run their just a FNG (funny new guy).

"We're just out to have fun while we run. I'm not the type of person that can just go out and run on the seawall...to just run. Chasing the hares gives me an objective or goal for running," concluded Rivera.

At the beginning of each outing a log book is opened for everyone participating to write down their name and phone number, and at the end, while having refreshments, the group makes sure everyone is accounted for.

If you want to add a new twist and a little fun to your running, all you have to do is show up in front of the Sakura Theater any Saturday at 2 p.m., rain or shine.

Story and photos
by Cpl. Greg Sloan



Climbing a rope is just another obstacle on the run.



When crossing an intersection, Hash runners have no idea which way to go.