

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 10 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Station volunteers with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 build a tunnel for the children of the Marifu Hoikuen (Marifu pre-school/kindergarten) during a community-relations event March 14, 2013. Children advancing to the next grade had the opportunity to run through the tunnel first.

MALS-12 contributes to friendship

Lance. Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station volunteers with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 participated in a community-relations event at the Marifu Hoikuen (Marifu pre-school/kindergarten) March 14, 2013.

“Today, we continued our commanding officer’s mission of community-relations projects that are geared to make positive ties of friendship with the Japanese citizens living in this vicinity,” said Navy Lt. Travis E. Coffey, MAG-12 deputy chaplain and MALS-12 chaplain.

The volunteers assisted the children with their English language lessons as well.

“We want to make connections with families, and what better way to do that than by investing in the children of the community?” said Coffey. “So, what we do consistently is go out to different pre-schools and teach them words, names, numbers and how to count.”

Though the children are young and just beginning their long road of education, the volunteers handed out certificates of accomplishment to those students moving on to the next level in their studies.

“We gave the graduates a certificate from the MALS-12 commanding officer, as well as a muffin to congratulate them on their education achievements thus far,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam A. Beyer, MAG-12 chaplain’s office group religious program specialist. “Since we supervise and coordinate the MAG-12 comrels we go to all of them. We do maybe, four to five a month, year-round.”

Volunteers used an interactive-learning environment to help them better communicate with the children.

“We played several games, counted to 20 a few times and also went over different animals and the sounds that they make,” said Beyer.

Because Japan is a host nation for U.S. servicemembers, it is important to maintain strong, positive relations with Japanese members of the community.

“It’s important that the Japanese citizens see us constantly and consistently out and amongst the community, meeting needs that we can provide for the community,” said Coffey. “They hear very publicly and strongly anything that happens negatively with our services, somebody makes a bad decision everybody hears about it, so what we can do is display our positive image to the community to assist us in maintaining ties with our host nation earning their trust.”

Community-relations projects occur often and are sanctioned and coordinated by the unit hosting them. Volunteer opportunities abound at the air station, and the easiest way to become part of a comrel is to speak with a unit chaplain.

Ready Group continues tradition of working with foreign allies

Lance Cpl. B. A. Stevens
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Marine Corps has a rich tradition of working with allies to improve military cohesion. Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Marine Attack Squadron 122, currently with Marine Aircraft Group

12, kept the tradition alive by participating in mutual-defense board and security-engagement board events.

The exercise started in January and is scheduled to continue well into the foreseeable future.

“What we’ve been doing is growing this incrementally,” said Maj. Anthony Baggs, MAG-12

operations officer. “In February we flew down four aircraft from (VMFA(AW)-242) and we did simulated close-air support with the forward air controllers from the Philippines Air Force out at Crow Valley Range.”

After VMA-122 arrived in Iwakuni for the Unit Deployment Program, they also took advantage

of the unique opportunity to train with allies.

Exercise Haribon Tempest, the unofficial nickname MAG-12 gave for last month’s MDB/SDB event took place March 6-9, 2013.

The name originates from the Haribon, which is a Philippine

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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Who are you working to please?'

Lt. T. L. Skelton
STATION CHAPLAIN

It is easy to get frustrated in our day-to-day lives, especially in situations where we often feel unappreciated and taken for granted.

How many times on our job do we get discouraged because we haven't received the acknowledgement from the people we thought we should?

It could be our peers, superiors, or even loved ones who we think should acknowledge the hard work, dedication and sacrifice we make daily.

However, this is not always the case. Why should we stay motivated to do anything if we aren't receiving the praise from

people?

Paul shares a little encouragement to the slaves in biblical times.

While we are not slaves, we can apply this scripture to our interactions in daily life.

Colossians 3:23-24, New International Version, states, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

If we change our focus to how we can please God with our lives and be a light in our community, we never know the impact we may have on others if we remove the focus from ourselves.

We do things truly from the heart and not for the praise of others, it opens our lives to be less stressed and blessed from above.

Yes, it is human nature to want acknowledgement for the good we do, but we shouldn't allow these thoughts to consume us to our detriment.

Our time here, on this earth, is like a vapor and our eternal reward is awaiting those who diligently desire to live a life that is pleasing and acceptable to God.

God is the one who can open and close doors, provides promotions and avenge us.

Romans 8:31 NIV states, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Let us continue to work faithfully and wholeheartedly because God has our backs and in due season, will reward us openly.

If he rewards us, it will be more than we could ever imagine or dream.

Road Tax Due April 2013

You must have your title to pay tax

Support the campaign, pay
April 1- April 30

All payments must be made in Yen

Heavy Vehicle Information

Plate:

100Y
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E
329Y, 330Y, 331Y
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y, 529Y,
530Y, 531Y, 500E

Light vehicle and motorcycle information

Cost:

¥ 32,000
more than 4,501cc — ¥ 22,000
less than 4,501cc — ¥ 19,000
¥ 7,500

Plate:

50A, 40A, 580A — ¥ 3,000
YAMA A, B — ¥ 1,000
IWAKUNI A, B, C — ¥ 500

■ April 24 through 26, tax collectors from the city will be at the Provost Marshal's Office pass-and-registration section for heavy vehicle owners to pay their tax on station from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

■ Heavy vehicles can otherwise pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Parking is free in the rear of the building.

■ Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to the pass and registration section of the PMO building, to receive your new base decal:

- Japanese title, secondary insurance, the vehicle or motorcycle, Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), SOFA license and AFID card, recycling fee receipt and new road tax receipt.

■ Light Vehicles and motorcycles owners will pay road tax on the second floor of City Hall located across from the police station from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Validated parking is free.

■ Maps to the new Symphonia building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO pass and registration section. For any other questions, contact pass and registration at 253-3135.

■ To avoid the long lines of the "last minute rush" at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal early in April.

■ April 30, the PMO pass and registration section will only process 2013 Road Tax registration and licenses. No other business will take place during this time.

Failure to pay road tax can result in the impoundment of your vehicle.

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP

SOS provides a safe place to feel understood and supported, find hope and strength, and help others do the same. Groups are open to anyone impacted by suicide, including family, friends, coworkers, and those who have contemplated suicide in the past.

Groups will be held on the second floor of Yujo Hall Thursdays April 18 - May 23, 2013.

For more information call the station chapel at 253-3371, or for inquiries email Madelyn Santiago at madelyn.santiago@med.navy.mil or Lt. J.G. Barbara Bentley at barbara.bentley@med.navy.mil

Marine aviators practice close air-group support with Philippine Air Force

READY FROM PAGE 1

Eagle that preys on monkeys.

The exercise doubled the previous month's aircraft by flying down a total of eight F-18s, four from each unit.

"Anytime we can get down there and work bilaterally with the Filipino Air Force, by perhaps teaching them how we execute

close air support, it is always going to be a good thing for U.S. security," said Capt. Marcus Yasumatsu, MAG-12 current operations officer.

Yasumatsu wasn't the only one who saw the security interest in working with Filipino servicemembers.

"The Philippines is a strategic ally," said Baggs. "They are in

close proximity to strategic sea lanes.

The Filipino Air Force may have been the students in this exercise, but they aren't the only ones who learned from the experience.

Yasumatsu said by doing these exercises with the Filipino Air Force, it allows MAG-12 to fly on a range where they can imply ordnance, which is a very rare

opportunity on mainland Japan. Baggs also said MAG-12 is looking to plan about eight small scale events each year with the Philippine Air Force.

Although the exercise has only consisted of three events this year, it looks to be a strong foundation in improving the alliance and military cohesion between the U.S. and Philippines.



Airmen with the Filipino Air Force use a joint terminal attack controller laser target designator during mutual-defense board security engagement board events in the Philippines March 7, 2013. Exercise Haribon Tempest, the unofficial nickname MAG-12 gave for last month's MDB/SDB event took place March 6-9, 2013. The name originates from the Haribon, which is a Philippine Eagle that preys on monkeys.

MCFTB hosts PREP workshop in Yujo Hall

Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Family Team Building hosted a Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program workshop at Yujo Hall here, March 15, 2013.

Whether married for two years, 20 years or marrying in the near future, the PREP courses provide couples ways to deal with marital problems.

"PREP is only on marriage and is open for married or soon-to-be married couples," said Neda Amaya, MCFTB Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) trainer. "The course instills tools to ensure not only a stable marriage, but a flourishing and striving marriage."

The course lasted all day, covering relationship issues including stress, hidden issues and communication danger signs. With the help of Lt. Cmdr. Louis Lee, station chaplain, Amaya demonstrated various scenarios couples in relationships may deal with on a regular basis.

Along with scenarios, each couple received a workbook to implement new skills with their own relationship problems.

"Conflict resolution is one of the biggest takeaways from the course," said Louise Tindel, PREP workshop participant. "How to talk out your problems and get around them is important."

Communication, relaxation and forgiveness were other topics discussed during the workshop.

Amaya said Headquarters Marine Corps introduced the course when they noticed the PREP course saw a correlation in reduced divorce percentages.

"With a lot of servicemembers getting married at a young age, it provides a good foundation on the realities of marriage," said Amaya. "We have chaplains and other resources, but it's not often that there's a class like this that's offered for free and is in close proximity for everyone."

Even if couples missed out on this particular workshop, MCFTB offers several other classes dealing with marriage and relationships, such as the pre-marital workshop and anyone interested in signing up for the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program, call 253-3542.

Servicemembers line up to meet actors

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents flocked to the station Marine Corps Post Exchange to get a chance to shake hands and pose with celebrities from the hit TV show, "The Sons of Anarchy," during the 2013 USO Handshake Tour here March 14, 2013.

Kim Coates, Mark Boone Junior and Dayton Callie set up shop in the PX, signing autographs and posing for photos in the afternoon.

For the actors, doing events such as the handshake tour is their way of giving back to those who give so much.

"They love our show and we love them," said Coates. "So it's super important for me to support in whichever way I can."

Coates also added how much he hears from servicemembers how they use the show as a stress-reliever and as a means of coping whenever they have downtime during a deployment.

The actors make several stops elsewhere throughout the year, constantly striving to show their appreciation to the troops.

"This is my second big tour," said Coates. "I can't do this enough. I'm also a big supporter of Wounded Warriors. I visit Camp Pendleton and Fort Hood. I love giving back as much as I can."

Earlier in the day, the actors visited servicemembers in their work centers, including Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 as they worked. The group watched a demonstration of a General Electric F404, the engine for the F/A-18 Hornet, before continuing to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. Once there, the actors posed for photos with servicemembers and dependents.

The overall feeling from the Marines was one of deep appreciation and satisfaction as

they conversed with the actors. Junior also mentioned the level of appreciation seems more genuine and sincere from servicemembers.

"It's a weird thing," said Junior. "People are constantly coming up to me every day saying they appreciate me being an actor but I seem to get more out of it when I come on these tours."

And the servicemembers do appreciate them for that.

"I thought it was amazing," said Staff Sgt. Jay Santiago, station Installation Administration Personnel Center outboard officer-in-charge. "We don't get to see actors like that here. Just having that opportunity to actually meet them is pretty amazing. I'm glad the USO was able to do that."

Santiago said he hopes USO tours such as this will become a regular activity throughout the year here.

"I wish they would bring some more (actors)," said Santiago. "When you are in other overseas duty stations, the USO normally does these tours and we don't get those here quite that often. When I was stationed at Okinawa, they had several USO tours during the year. I've been here for three years now and I think they bring in one group of actors every year."

At the conclusion of their presentation at the exchange, the actors visited the Hornet's Nest, continuing to meet and greet fans well into the evening.

The hand-shake tour is scheduled to make two more stops at Guam and Hawaii before returning to the states.

Though their stay was short, the stars shined brightly for their fans.

The visit was something both the actors and many servicemembers will remember for years to come.



Cpl. Raffael Ahamad, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 collateral duty inspector, discusses components that make up a General Electric F404 engine with Mark Boone Junior, "Sons of Anarchy" television star, at the MALS-12 power plant here March 14, as part of the 2013 USO Handshake Tour. Fellow SOA alum, Kim Coates and Dayton Callie were also in attendance. The stars also visited with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 servicemembers and signed autographs and posed for pictures at the Marine Corps Exchange. The trio closed out this portion of the tour by signing more autographs at the Hornet's nest later that evening.

Unexpected journey, high film expectations

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
EDITORIAL

Well, Peter Jackson has done it again. He's managed to craft another cinematic masterpiece from the legendary father of modern fantasy epics, J.R.R. Tolkien.

I am, of course, talking about "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," which debuted on Blu-ray and DVD March 19, 2013.

It's been some time since we set off on an adventure into Middle Earth, which Jackson delivers and more.

From the onset, we're introduced to beautiful sets and stunning CGI effects, which have become the standard for special-effects company, Weta Workshop, and serve as the backdrop for this harrowing and engrossing tale of personal growth, heroism and danger.

Anyone who has seen the Lord of the Rings trilogy knows what to expect from this.

The story revolves around a band of 13 dwarves, a ragtag misfit group who are travelling to the Lonely Mountain, at one point the heart of the dwarfish kingdom of Erebor, to reclaim the throne and treasure for their leader and rightful heir to the throne, Thorin Oakenshield.

At the heart of all this is a hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, played by Martin Freeman. Freeman delivers an outstanding performance as a reluctant Bilbo who is dead set against taking part in the adventure.

Gandalf the Grey, played perfectly in a reprisal role by Sir Ian McKellen, recruits Bilbo to accompany the group to the Lonely Mountain, as they need a burglar. From the get-go, it's apparent Bilbo is not trusted or liked by his companions, especially Thorin as he sees Bilbo as a liability.

It's a Tolkien tale, so there are orcs and goblins. Oh, and briefly alluded to is a dragon

named Smaug. It was Smaug who drove the dwarves from their homeland and now sleeps atop his hoard of gold beneath the mountain, and it's Smaug who promises to make a majestic appearance in a future sequel.

The movie moves along at a brisk pace. For the Tolkien aficionados out there, don't worry. Jackson stays true to the source material and treats it with the reverence and respect few directors rarely have anymore.

The movie is long at 2 hours and 49 minutes, but it is well worth it. It is the first in the "Hobbit" trilogy. The Literary version of "The Hobbit" was a single book. The three movies are Jackson's extension and telling of the full story as he pulls from other Tolkien source material to fill in the gaps, and the Blu-ray is chock full of special feature goodies.

Overall, this movie is one more reason to journey back to Middle Earth and I give it an A+.

Bringing heat, cooking meat

Station chefs battle for victory during Chef of the Quarter competition

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The fragrance of exquisitely cooked meals filled the southside mess hall here March 15, 2013, as the Chef-of-the-Quarter Competition concluded with a cooking contest between Food Services' top three chefs.

"I'm proud of my Marines, I think they did a great job," said Staff Sgt. Julia Criqui, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron assistant messhall manager. "I hope they strive to be the best and continue the good work as the future of the Marine Corps in food service."

The first step of the cooking contest was a written test. From there, the three highest scoring Marines battled for perfection in a knowledge board and uniform inspection before the cooking event.

"I think this competition is important because it gives the Marines a chance to show off their individuality," said Criqui. "Sometimes, as Marines, we have to do things in a big group. But, given just a random item like pork, you can do a million things with pork."

Even though only one Marine could win, the culinary tourney gave each participant a chance to hone his skills.

"It's kind of like birth, that's my baby back there, I created that," said Lance Cpl. Jose Montalvo, H&HS food services Marine and winner of the competition. "It's hectic, but once you get to that last hour, hour and a half, you're just scrambling for any amount of time you can scrape up. But after you throw it out there and it's done with, you're golden."

Once the meals reached completion, they were displayed before a board of judges, consisting of Lt. Col. F. Lance Lewis, H&HS commanding officer, Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wagoner, Station Judge Advocate, Navy Lt. Takana Skelton, H&HS chaplain, and Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, H&HS sergeant major.

There is one more Chef-of-the-Quarter competition slated for this fiscal year. The winner from that event, along with Montalvo and the two previous winners, will face off to see who is the top chef of the year aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.



Lance Cpl. Jose Montalvo, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food services Marine, slices carrots during the Chef-of-the-Quarter Competition, which took place inside the southside chow hall here, March 15, 2013. Before the cooking event, Marines competed in a written test, knowledge board and uniform inspection.

Station residents experience Japanese culture at Festival



An actor plays the role of Susano-o, a character in the kagura performance at the Japanese American Society Culture Festival held at Matthew C. Perry's cafeteria here, March 9, 2013. The show, called Yamata-no-Orochi, is based on a Japanese folklore of an eight-headed and eight-tailed serpent. Susano-o was a god banished from the heavens to Earth and is the protagonist in the story.

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents gathered in the Matthew C. Perry High School cafeteria here to enjoy the Japanese American Society Culture Festival, March 9, 2013.

The festival was free of charge and involved several interactive activities, including calligraphy, flower arranging and a tea ceremony.

"The point of this festival is to share the different cultural events the Japanese do with Americans," said Duanne Cole, JAS president. "A lot of station residents don't leave the base or get to see these events in person. By providing it on base, it makes it available to everybody."

The JAS invited local Japanese to participate in the event.

"I'm friends with a lot of the local nationals," said Kenneth Uedoi, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic occupational health nurse. "They help me interact with people in the community. I've taken a lot of Japanese language classes, but I still don't speak it very well, so being able to talk to them helps."

Among the activities presented, Taiko drum concert and kagura performances were part of the event.

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a kagura is a stately dance of the Shinto religion that forms a part of Japanese village festivals.

The kagura performers danced the Yamata-no-Orochi, which comes from a Japanese folktale of an eight-headed and eight-tailed serpent.

"The most exciting part of the festival is the performance they do with the dragons," said Cole. "It's also the biggest attraction of the festival."

The myth says a family sacrificed their daughter to the beast. Susano-o was a god banished from the heavens to Earth. He came across the family's distress and promised to slay the serpent for their daughter's hand in marriage.

Susano-o made the serpent drunk with a large vat of strong sake, slayed it and then married the family's daughter.

The enactment engaged actors in dragon costumes equipped with fireworks that made the performance more appealing.

With the festival displaying the wonders of Japanese culture, local nationals capitalize on their own types of exchange.

"I like how some people don't even know each other, but everyone is smiling, laughing and interacting perfectly fine," said Uedoi. "Everyone starts mixing together so there is less of a divide between Americans and Japanese."

The JAS hosts several events for Japanese and American residents. As for the culture festival, residents can look forward to participating in this event again next year, as well as various other culture sharing opportunities outside the gates.



Actors in dragon costume light fireworks to add a fire-breathing effect during a kagura performance at the Japanese American Society Culture Festival held at Matthew C. Perry's high school cafeteria here, March 9, 2013. The show called Yamata-no-Orochi, is based on a Japanese folklore of an eight-headed and eight-tailed serpent.



Performers from the Syutou Furusato Taiko group perform a traditional Taiko drum song at the Japanese American Society Culture Festival held at Matthew C. Perry High School's cafeteria here, March 6, 2013. The festival featured concerts and several interactive events including flower arranging, calligraphy and a proper tea ceremony.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



Lance Cpl. Nathan Bush launches the Puma during an operation at Patrol Base Boldak March 4. To operate, the Puma must be launched by hand. Bush is a member of Weapons Company with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. Weapons Company, 2/7, is one of the few Marine Corps units in Helmand province still operating independently of the Afghan National Army and remains focused on counterinsurgency operations.

Aerial surveillance acts as lifeline

Sgt. Bobby Yarbrough
REGIONAL COMMAND SOUTHWEST

PATROL BASE BOLDAK, Afghanistan

The Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, took sporadic enemy fire for most of the morning March 2 while conducting their daily patrol through Boldak, a small town interlaced with green fields and large mud compounds about eight kilometers southeast of Camp Leatherneck.

Due to their position and the unforgiving terrain of the city, the Marines couldn't locate the shooter.

The Marines radioed their combat operations center at Patrol Base Boldak, a small base just two kilometers away, and asked for aerial surveillance to help locate where the shots were coming from.

Within minutes, Marines with Weapons Company, 2nd Bn., 7th Marines, had launched an RQ-LOA Puma AE, a small, unarmed aerial vehicle, to search for potential suspects.

As the Puma positioned over the patrol's location, a man on a motorcycle was spotted speeding north away from their position. An object was tossed across the man's lap.

The aerial vehicle followed the man as he drove through the city and across fields, weaving in and out of narrow dirt roads and washed out wadies.

The man pulled up to a large compound and parked his motorcycle underneath trees that padded the right side of the road. Multiple men flooded out from inside of the compound to meet the motorcyclist.

The Marines at PB Boldak watched on a television screen as the motorcyclist and the men gathered under the trees.

For the next few minutes, people moved back and forth from under the tree line to the

inside of the compound.

After about ten minutes, the motorcyclist and a female passenger left the compound, but without the object.

Although the Marines couldn't positively identify the object as a weapon, through the use of the aerial surveillance they were able to identify a possible insurgent compound they would now monitor.

Unconventional warfare has defined Afghanistan for the last 12 years. With an enemy who hides amongst the population and uses improvised explosive devices, the U.S. military has reinvented and transformed its strategies for defeating insurgency.

Weapons Company, 2/7, is one of the few Marine Corps units in Helmand province still operating independently of the Afghan National Army and remains focused on counterinsurgency operations.

Aerial surveillance systems are ideal for them as an infantry unit because they allow them to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance flights over their battlespace.

Since 2012, the Marine Corps has fielded the Puma surveillance system to units in Afghanistan. And for the last five months, the Puma systems have become a fundamental part of battlefield planning for 2nd Bn., 7th Marines.

"Aerial surveillance has become indispensable to our unit," said Capt. John Dalby, the company commander of Weapons 2/7. "The Puma system has become a lifeline for our unit, allowing us to observe, detect, and monitor a transparent enemy while operating in a counterinsurgency environment."

The Puma is a hand-launched unarmed aerial vehicle (UAV) with a range greater than 15 kilometers. It weighs 13 pounds, has a two-hour time of flight and can be operated

from a static position or a mobile platform. The Puma's small size and its ease of use are positives for infantry units because it allows them to operate the systems organically.

"The Puma system is very important, especially for the infantry," said Lance Cpl. Scott Chase, the Puma flight chief for 2/7. "When it comes to fighting insurgency, we are attempting to fight an enemy who isn't directly attacking us. With the Puma system, we can independently observe our battlespace day or night, which allows us to find the enemy before he has the chance to find us."

Currently, the unit has four Puma systems and four flight operators. The operators, who are all infantryman, fly for approximately eight hours each day and have logged more than 1,000 flight hours during their deployment.

According to Lance Cpl. Josh Miller, a Puma flight operator, the system has helped them to locate 12 improvised explosive device (IED) emplacements and numerous enemy firing positions, as well as track multiple insurgents across the battlefield.

The future of UAVs

The use of unarmed aerial vehicles has become commonplace on the battlefield and is poised to define the future of combat. However, Dalby believes the real future of aerial surveillance in the Marine Corps lies within its use in amphibious operations.

Dalby was a former small-boat commander with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and he believes the Puma systems have unlimited potential in support of ship-to-shore movements.

"Moving into the future, the use of aerial surveillance will become more important," said Dalby. "As we return to our amphibious roots, we will adapt the technology into a valuable tool for MEU commanders to use in their decision making process for beach landings."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Substance Abuse Prevention

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

PMO Lost and Found

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

We Are The World

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School sixth graders are scheduled to host a presentation on historic figures and ancient civilizations March 29, 2013, inside the M.C. Perry cafeteria.

Admission is free. For more information, contact Netra Harwell at 253-3447/5827.

Parent Representatives Needed

Parent representatives are needed for the School Advisory Council and Installation Advisory Committee. The SAC meeting will take place April 16, 2013, at 3:30 p.m., and the IAC will take place April 25 at 3:30 p.m.

NMRS

Servicemembers are encouraged to donate to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society during the 2013 Active Duty Fund Drive. The drive is scheduled to take place in the Building One auditorium April 22 from 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.; April 25 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.; and April 30 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Servicemembers may also donate online at MOL through the "resources" tab in the upper right corner. From there, click the "Navy-

Marine Corps Relief Society" link. The next page will have a link for the drive. Fill out the monthly donation, donation amount or choose another option. The allotment will then be confirmed and a request for donors to print out a receipt for their records.

Motorcycle Mentorship Program

A motorcycle club is in the works for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. The focus of the group will be on discussing the importance of motorcycle safety, but will also provide opportunities to ride. There is no membership fee. The first meeting time is to be decided.

Kindergarten Round-up

Registration for the 2014 school year for kindergarten students will take place March 20, 2013, between the times of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. inside the Matthew C. Perry

Elementary School gym. Sponsors must bring a copy of their orders and area clearance, immunization records and child's passport for eligibility determination.

Station Power Outage

A station-wide power outage is scheduled for April 5 at 10 p.m., lasting until April 6 at 8 a.m.

Like To Draw?

The Iwakuni Approach is looking for artistic people with a sense of humor to submit cartoon drawings. If you are interested, bring your drawings by the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216. Public Affairs approves editorial content for cartoons published each week.

Jobs

Dental Assistant

The U.S. Navy is now accepting applications for a full-time dental assistant position at the 3rd Dental Battalion/

U.S. Navy Dental Center, Iwakuni. Certification of qualification is required and three letters of recommendation. Applicants must successfully complete and pass a background investigation. This is not a civil service position. For more information call, 253-4628.

Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like to be published. You may submit your brief or ad 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.

KUNI TOONS: POP GOES THE DOC

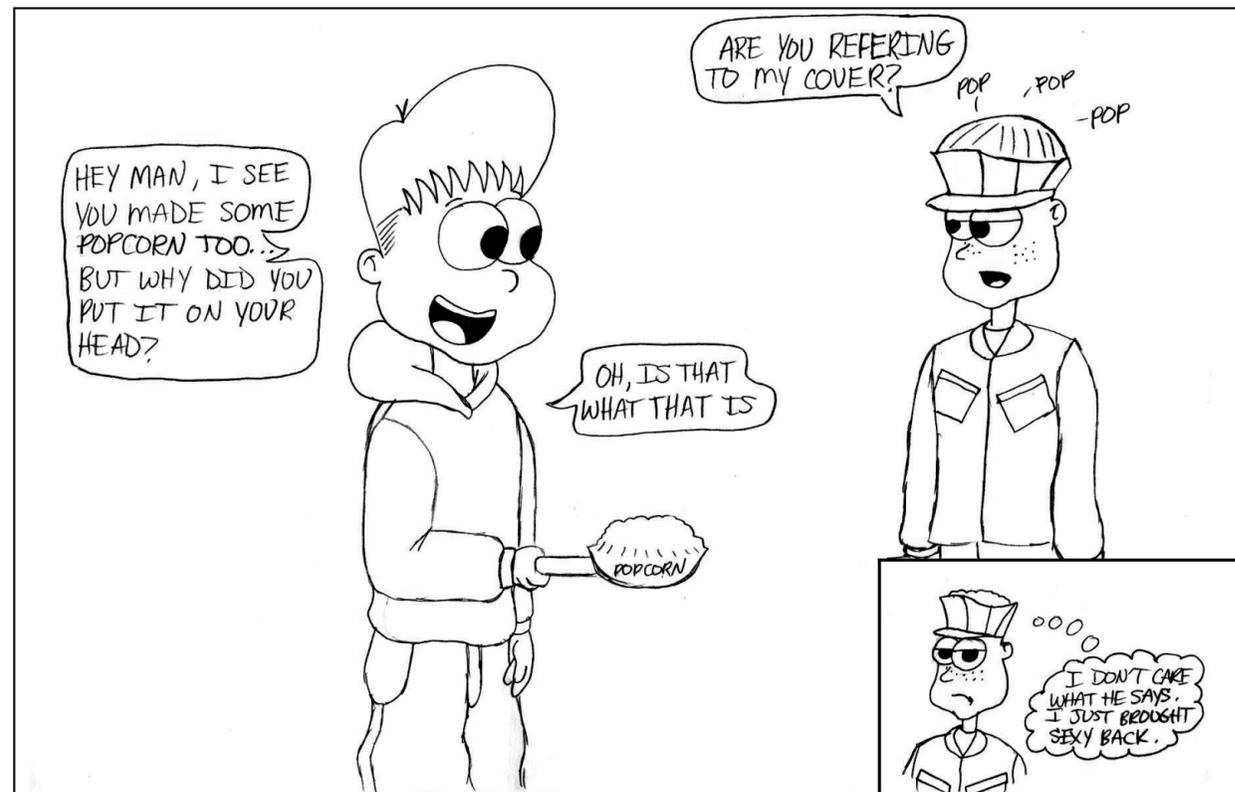


ILLUSTRATION BY CPL. MICHAEL DIAZ

INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

2013 Easter & Holy Day Services

Roman Catholic

March 23
4:30 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Palm Sunday Vigil Mass

March 24
8:15 a.m. Blessing of Palms (In front of Chapel)
8:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass

March 26
6:00 p.m. Lenten Penance Service (confession)

March 28
6:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's supper

March 29
5:30 p.m. Observance of the Lord's Passion

March 30
7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

March 31
8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass

Protestant

March 29
7:30 p.m.

March 31
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
1:00 p.m. Worship 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.

OUT AND ABOUT : *Japan*

MOURI MUSEUM, OHINASAMA EXHIBITION

The hina dolls and miniature equipment from the Mouri family will be displayed now until April 7 from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Admission for the museum is 700 yen for the adults, 350 yen for junior high and elementary school students. Admission for the museum garden is 1,000 yen for adults, 500 yen for junior high and elementary school students. For more information, contact the Mouri museum at 0835-22-0001.

INGRID FUZJKO HEMMING PIANO RECITAL 2013

The concert is slated to take place April 4, 2013, 7 p.m. at the Shunan Cultural Hall.

Admission is 12,000 yen for SS seats, 10,000 yen for S seats, 8,000 yen for A seats, and 6,000 yen for B seats. Preschoolers are barred from the concert.

For more information, contact the Shunan Cultural hall at 0834-22-8787.

For more information on upcoming events visit our website at <http://www.mccsiwakuni.marines.mil/News/LocaleventInformation.aspx> or visit Information Tours and Travel located in the Crossroads Mall or call 253-4377.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 22, 2013

7 p.m. The Impossible (PG-13)
10 p.m. A Good Day to Die Hard (R)

Saturday, March 23, 2013

4 p.m. Escape from Planet Earth (PG)
7 p.m. Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R)

Sunday, March 24, 2013

4 p.m. Escape from Planet Earth (PG)
7 p.m. Parker (R)

Monday, March 25, 2013

7 p.m. Impossible (R)

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

Theater closed

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Theater closed

Thursday, March 28, 2013

7 p.m. Parker (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.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Kanji Adventures KIKKO PARK



Directly after crossing Iwakuni's Kintai-kyo ("kyo" is "bridge" in Japanese), tourists can venture into Kikko Park, which lies on the same grounds where residents of the ruling Kikkawa family lived during the Edo Period. Due to this, the site is blessed with previous samurai residences and houses many historical artifacts.

Upon arrival at the park, visitors may notice a statue of Kikkawa Hiroyoshi, constructor of the Kintai-kyo. The park is also the home to galleries such as the Choko-kan Museum, which features historic artifacts of everyday life, the Kikkawa Museum, which houses belongings such as documents, swords and other weapons that once belonged to the Kikkawa family, and the Iwakuni Art Museum, which also displays samurai armor, glassware and ceramics.

The park is also home to the white snake exhibit and its live animals, which are rare albino serpents believed to bring good fortune.

The Kikko Shrine, the family shrine of the Kikkawa Clan, is located above the Kikkawa family's previous living quarters and built in 1884. Adjacent to the shrine is a tree 25 meters tall that is now a natural monument in the Yamaguchi Prefecture.

A beautifully groomed and manicured garden, the entire park is lush with breathtaking flora with several must-see events, including the springtime cherry blossom sakura, an iris festival and more. Last, but not least, the park ends with a gondola that leads to Iwakuni Castle, constructed in 1608 on top of Mt. Shiroyama, and now looks onto the city of Iwakuni, 200 meters below.

Jolly Green Giants not so jolly with competition

Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The youth basketball's 13-to-15-year-old division played its final game of the season as the Jolly Green Giants squared off for the championship against the Iwakuni Legends at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here, March 14, 2013.

In the course of the season, the Giants won every game, including a pre-season and regular-season tournament. The Legends lost twice in their entire season, both to the Giants.

"Before the game started, we had the mindset that we were going to play another game against them because it was a double-elimination game," said Wendell Stewart, Iwakuni Legends coach. "If we win the first game, we play another game against them."

The teams battled back and forth as the game progressed, constantly blocking shots, catching rebounds or stealing the ball.

By the end of the first half, the Legends possessed a one-point lead over the Giants.

"I told the kids they needed to hustle more," said Damian Deanda, Jolly Green Giants coach. "Rebounds were a big thing as well. They kept missing a lot of their first shots and couldn't get the rebounds."

The second half intensified with the Legends blasting ahead with eight points. The Giants came back with another two baskets and six free throws to finally take the lead.

With two minutes left in the fourth quarter, frustration set in as the Giants sat ahead by one. Multiple technical fouls called against the Legends gave the Giants the opening they were looking for.

Vince Ermitan, Giants player, made nine free throws, bringing the score to 29-19. The Legends made a desperate attempt to catch up by making a basket, but the Giants countered with a basket of their own. The final seconds of the game expired as the Giants defeated the Legends 31-21.

"We won the championship last year, but it was nowhere near as being undefeated," said Deanda. "We practice three times a week, and it really paid off."

For the coaches of the Legends, defeat didn't matter because the night was about something else.

"This team came a long way," said Nicholas Buenrostro, Legends coach. "We couldn't get everyone to practice all the time, but they overcame it, they showed up and they played their hearts out. That's all we could ask from them."

With the youth basketball season finished, the Jolly Green Giants hold the bragging rights with two tournament wins, an undefeated season and a championship to top it all off.

This year, the Giants, much like their namesakes, stood taller than their competition.

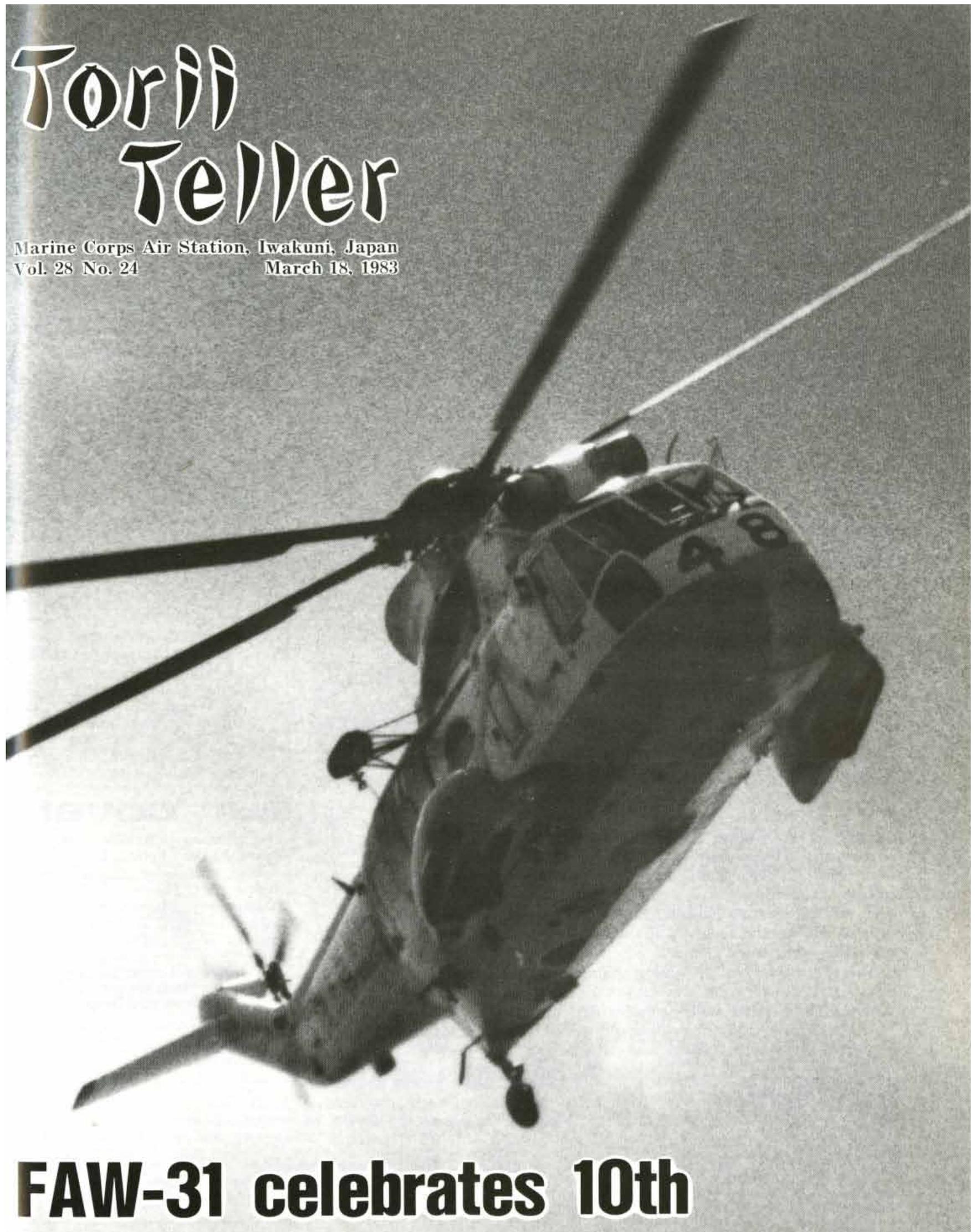


Noah Salsberry (right), an Iwakuni Legends player, tries to block Christopher Kinney (left), a Jolly Green Giants player, during the Youth Basketball championship held at IronWorks Gym sports courts here, March 14, 2013. At the two minute mark in the final period, the Giants took the lead and continued to score, finishing the game 31-21.

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the March 18, 1983, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported the 10th anniversary of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Fleet Air Wing 31, the nearing of the spring equinox, the prohibited use of portable radio or tape players with headphones, and how to qualify for the invitational Kintai Marathon Run.



FAW-31 celebrates 10th