

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 12 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 (purple jerseys), and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron battle it out in the final round of the Commander's Cup Basketball Tournament March 23, 2013, on the outdoor basketball court near IronWorks Gym. MWSS-171 finished the tournament and took home the first-place trophy.

USO, here to improve life for servicemembers

Lance. Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

United Service Organizations representatives visited Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni March 13, 2013, in hopes of further improving lives of overseas war fighters and families.

While the representatives, USO Japan Area Director Juliet Bucayu-Domingo, and USO Sasebo Center Manager Brian White, toured many different centers and facets of the station, the first stop of their visit focused on the care and comfort of servicemembers E-5 and below, who first check in to the Joint Reception Center when arriving here.

"We just want to come down and try to be as supportive as we can with Iwakuni because the USO is here for the military, that's our mission," said White. "It's one fight, one mission. We're all here to support the military. As prior enlisted, I've been there, I've walked those shoes. Making that positive first impression to those coming in new to Japan and being as positive and helpful as possible will go a long way."

While the USO's mission is to provide for all servicemembers and their families, special care is sometimes necessary for those who may arrive to their first fleet duty station.

"We're trying to support in all areas possible, but of course, first impressions go a long way," said White. "Anything that

SEE **USO** ON PAGE 3

Spring Bazaar comes to Iwakuni

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Status of Forces Agreement personnel spent two days perusing the wares on display during Marine Corps Community Services' 2013 Spring Bazaar at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here March 23-24, 2013.

The bazaar is an event held each spring and fall that showcases many extravagant articles of clothing, furniture, and other souvenirs and novelty items from across Asia.

"The bazaar is when we bring vendors from throughout Asia from Korea, China, mainland Japan, every now and then we'll get someone from Thailand," said John Ayers, MCCA services director. "They come in and bring furniture, small trinket items for people to purchase. It's just like the advertisements says, 'Being able to shop Asia without leaving Iwakuni.'"

During the bazaar, Iwakuni residents purchased items large and small, such as

SEE **BAZAAR** ON PAGE 3

Women's Leadership Symposium open doors for junior Marines to speak to senior leaders

Lance. Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents gathered inside Club Iwakuni here, March 19, 2013, for the Women's Leadership Symposium, which provided an opportunity for males and females, from junior to enlisted senior and officers, to speak freely.

"Women Marines are a minority. Seven percent of the Marine Corps is female," said

Gunnery Sgt. Alvin P. Cruz, station equal opportunity advisor. "The junior Marines, sailors and soldiers here don't really have a chance to talk to senior enlisted and senior officers, because usually, as a lance corporal, you would talk to your corporal or your sergeant. You never really jump the chain."

One of the goals of the symposium was to break down the social wall in the military created by rank.

"This is a chance for them to let down their

hair and ask those hard questions," said Cruz. "As a gunny, I have never had that chance to sit down with a panel. As (Sgt. Maj. Tamara L. Fode, 3rd Marine Logistics Group sergeant major) said, she wished she had this opportunity before as a junior Marine."

Participants spent the majority of the event attending four different workshops, which included topics such as stress management,

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DAIMYO
Wraps up | P. 4



BOOTS
These boots are made for walkin' | P. 5



THUNDER HORSE
MWSS-171 trains | P. 6&7



MWSS-171 concludes Exercise Daimyo Eagle 2013, reports success

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"We are ready for all things, all the time," said Maj. Mark D. Schouten, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 operations officer. "We don't know when we'll have to be called upon to do our jobs, so we always have to be ready to do it and when we're called upon, we'll have to do it quickly."

This ready mindset was put to the test as MWSS-171 completed Exercise Daimyo Eagle 2013, which took place behind the XtremeWorks skate park here, from March 6-20.

"Conducting this training is not a big deal. It's a thing that we should be doing, and every unit should be doing regularly," said Schouten. "At regular intervals,

we address our ability to command and control the whole unit, that's what this is all about."

While Daimyo Eagle may have been located aboard station, its support reached across the Pacific.

"The greatness of this is that we have four other exercises going on," said Schouten. "From here, we can track, in a field environment, what's going on at four different sites. We've got Marines in Kadena, Osan and up in Haramura that we're tracking, in addition to all the stuff that's going on down here."

Even with the mission a success, no exercise is complete without assessing and learning from the challenges encountered.

"It was great training first of all and a good learning experience

for a lot of us," said 1st Lt. Robert Arellano, MWSS-171 action officer. "A lot of times, we take things for granted. We think that the moment we set things up, everything is going to be magical and everything is going to work 100 percent, but no, that has not been the case. On Monday, we got rained on and the (combat operations center) was half flooded, so we had to have engineers come over and dig trenches around the area to channel the water out of the COC."

Arellano mentioned several other complications the Marines battled, such as the (Support Wide Area Network) becoming offset by the wind, causing a loss of communication.

"It was real-life training in the fact that not everything worked, the fact that we had to troubleshoot, that's reality,"

said Arellano. "When we go into combat, when we go into war, we're not going to have a system that is in a vacuum like when we do training. In this case, there was no such thing as pressing enter and everything works. We had to go out there and troubleshoot things, un-flood the COC, find out why communications was not working, try to get the engineers here to dig out a ditch."

The purpose of Daimyo Eagle was to establish a squadron-level aviation ground support operations center, perform staff functions in a field environment and improve the squadron's ability to plan.

"The way I see it, it was a successful exercise," said Arellano. "The environment gave us hell, and we want to train in the hardest environment, so when we have to do it in war time, it's easy for us."

Living Together, Working Together, Belonging Together

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

During one's time spent overseas, cultural shock is a feeling anyone may experience. Community relations events are designed to allow that feeling of shock and curiosity to vanish while building strong, community ties with the country that hosts these servicemembers.

Many volunteers say venturing out on comrels is a great way to show Japan, or any nation, the good things military servicemembers can do.

"As long as I have been here, the comrels we have been involved in most have been the Hoikuen visits, which are like pre-school," said Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, Marine Aircraft Group 12 Chaplain. "We also do Kintai Bridge cleanups, and those are done almost every month, with various specialty comrels making their way into our schedules from time to time."

Some specialty comrels are seasonal and others annually. "We do four to six a month, Christmas is a special one when we deliver toys to orphans," said Logistics Specialist Petty Officer 1st Class Reggie M. Guevarra, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Station Comrel Coordinator. "We go out and help children and adults learn English as well as just play with them."

Given the amount of effort and time required, why do air station personnel do community relations events? Why do they seek the trust and approval of their host nation?

"The impact that comrels have on Japanese nationals is amazing," said Guevarra. "It shows that Americans have the patience and the spirit to go and help out. We are here to help. We are American ambassadors regardless whether or not we are wearing a uniform. Once we are in a foreign country, we are not here to hate on people. We are here to help and extend our arms out to the community, to help as many people as we can."

Some volunteers said that when they first started, they found themselves hesitant to participate in community-relations events because they didn't know how to mingle with new people, were afraid to try new things or did not know how much time would be spent on a comrel. But these same volunteers later



Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 do the 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' dance with the children of the Marifu Hoikuen (Marifu pre-school/kindergarten) during a community relations event March 14, 2013. Before the volunteers danced with the children, they passed out certificates to those students advancing to the next grade level.

said the value far exceeded the effort.

"Doing comrels shows our Japanese hosts that we are here to do good things," said Guevarra. "We love helping out the kids, and that shows the adults we care."

Together, the various units aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni conducted more than 365 community relations events in 2012 alone, an average of more than one a day.

"We even do comrels when we are deployed," said Wallingford.

From cleaning up around Iwakuni,

interacting with school children, traveling to Ishinomaki to help rebuild schools or administering disaster relief, servicemembers are here and they want to help, they want to be seen in the light for the good they do.

They don't do it for money, they don't do it for fame, they do it because it is right and it is what their military and personal values demand of them, not just uniting them as people, but as two countries working together for mutual benefit.



Marines with Combat Engineers, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, hike through the mountain passes of Haramura near the site of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 21, 2013. The Marines trudged through miles of rigorous terrain consisting of rocky uphill slopes and deep ditches.

MWSS-171 combat engineers hike for unit preparedness

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines with Combat Engineers, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, hiked through the mountain passes of Haramura Exercise Area, Japan, near the location of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 21, 2013.

The Marines hiked approximately seven miles through rigorous terrain to maintain their physical fitness and uphold their standards as a force-in-readiness.

"We went on a nice seven-mile hike with a combat load," said 1st Lt. Brett Harber, MWSS-171 engineer operations company executive officer. "It's a nice place to come out and get a change of scenery from Iwakuni and get a little bit of a terrain and altitude change."

Having a constant presence and training on station can become repetitive and Marines often need to change things up to keep from becoming complacent.

"Iwakuni is a great station, but it's kind of the same thing every day," said Harber. "It is nice to come out here and give us the chance to get back into that combat mindset of putting on a full combat load and hiking in kind of an unknown area."

Engineers often find themselves in situations that can be out of the

norm for their job.

"All Marines are, first and foremost, riflemen. We never know in a time of war when we are going to have to hike," said Harber. "You never know when a vehicle is going to break down and we are going to have to hoof it. On top of that, there have been plenty of instances where engineers have taken on the role of a provisional rifle platoon and had to go on patrols. It is an expectation for all Marines."

Maintaining unit cohesiveness, as well as keeping the Marines of a unit conditioned, are important steps to keeping a unit ready at a moment's notice.

"We train to do infantry-based maneuvers and tactics, and that is what this is about," said Gunnery Sgt. Jamie Byrd, MWSS-171 Engineer Company 1st Sgt. "It raises the morale and camaraderie of the Marines, which is very important. This is one of our unit conditionings that we all look forward to in order to keep pushing toward the fight."

MWSS-171 continues to maintain the standard of Marines being a force-in-readiness, proving every Marine is first and foremost a rifleman, and requires adaptive capabilities to take on any role for any need that may rise.



Marines with Combat Engineers, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, hike through the mountain passes of Haramura near the site of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 21, 2013. Throughout the hike, Marines would check the Marine in front of them to make sure their equipment was not falling off or loose.

RAIN OR LIGHT, DAY OR NIGHT, MARINES TRAIN DURING EXERCISE THUNDER HORSE



Pfc. Matthew Conditt, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer, provides security during an afternoon convoy patrol in the Haramura training area as part of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 19, 2013. The exercise lasted six days with the Marines conducting convoy operations in a field environment.

Sgt. Joshua Velasquez, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation mechanic, runs across a road while his fellow Marines maintain security as part of a security sweep during an afternoon convoy patrol in the Haramura training area as part of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 19, 2013. Marines executed security convoys with different scenarios, including improvised explosive devices and ambushes.



Lance Cpl. Jacklyn Dean (Left), Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 ground radio repair technician, Lance Cpl. Michael McNulty, MWSS-171 telephone system and personal computer intermediate repair technician, and Cpl. Nicholas Thompson, MWSS-171 field radio operator, record radio traffic as Marines conduct convoy patrols in the Haramura training area as part of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 20, 2013.



Cpl. Robert Kent (left), Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 bulk fuel specialist, and 1st Lt. James Woolley, MWSS-171 combat engineer platoon commander and exercise security team leader, radio in a possible improvised explosive device during an afternoon convoy patrol in the Haramura training area as part of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 19, 2013.

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

A field of dirt and clay became an area of operations for Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 as they charged ahead with Exercise Thunder Horse at the Haramura training area, near Hiroshima, from March 17-22, 2013.

According to 2nd Lt. Robert Litvin, MWSS-171 motor transportation operations platoon commander and exercise action officer, the primary mission of the exercise was to conduct convoy operations coupled with the chance to conduct engineering, explosive ordnance disposal and airbase ground-defense operations in a field environment.

"This exercise is to prepare these Marines for the exercise in Twentynine Palms, California, as well as preparing for war," said Litvin.

The Marines dedicated three days of the exercise toward four convoy patrols per day. Each convoy included different scenarios, including improvised explosive devices, ambushes and a night drive, which challenged Marines to drive their vehicles while wearing night-vision goggles.

Even the weather added realism to the training. Twenty-four hour periods of rain, blistering winds, and chilly temperatures couldn't stop the Marines from completing their mission.

"On day one of the convoys, it was apparent that not everyone knew what to expect and they didn't exactly know where their place was," said 1st Lt. James Woolley, MWSS-171 combat engineer platoon commander and exercise security team leader. "Once the Marines started to understand what their roles

were, it made the leaders' jobs a lot easier. By the third day, I barely had to coach anyone through the scenarios."

Upon completion of the convoy operations, Marines unwound with the opportunity to fire their weapons at an indoor range near the training area.

Marines had the chance to fire the M240B medium machinegun, as well as their M16A4 assault rifles as part of a combat marksmanship session.

"The Marines had the weapons and used them for tactical scenarios all week," said Maj. Matthew Halbert, MWSS-171 airfield operations commander and exercise officer-in-charge. "This gave them the opportunity to deploy that weapon system with live ammunition. It increases their confidence in themselves and their weapons."

With the convoys completed, marksmanship finished and the exercise at an end, Marines could relax as they completed their mission to the best of their ability.

"It's amazing to see Marines of different ranks and military occupational specialty backgrounds becoming familiar with each other throughout the course of the training," said Lt. Col. Howard Eyth, MWSS-171 commanding officer. "There were the usual frictions of operating in an expeditionary environment, but the Marines came together, learned how to reach the objectives and leaders took charge. It's a beautiful thing to see."

With the field that provided these Marines with proper needs to complete their mission returned to its original state, MWSS-171 charges ahead with their reinforced knowledge as they prepare for their next exercise.



A Marine from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 provides security as his fellow Marines search for an improvised explosive device during an afternoon convoy patrol in the Haramura training area as part of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 19, 2013. The convoys tasked Marines in dealing with certain scenarios replicating possible situations encountered in Afghanistan.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Real-world training prepares Marines for upcoming deployment

Cpl. Mark Garcia
1 MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Instructors with Special Operations Training Group conducted Tactical Rescue of Aircraft Personnel training with Marines from 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 21, 2013.

During the TRAP mission, instructors observed and monitored how Marines reacted to multiple combat scenarios. Scenarios included a helicopter insert, followed by a foot patrol while receiving multiple engagements from simulated enemies.

Despite the obstacles placed before them, the Marines still had to make their way to the simulated downed pilot, stabilize him and then carry him to a cleared landing zone where they were extracted by helicopter. The real-world training exercise is designed to see how quickly and efficiently Marines can complete the mission.

"We want to make the training as realistic as possible. If you don't have enemy personnel in the area, then its just going to be an easy day and a simple mission," said Sgt. Ronald Gunns, a TRAP instructor with SOTG, from Philadelphia. "If you don't throw friction in there to see how they actually think on the

move with a little more pressure on their shoulders, then it's not going to be effective training."

The training is important, because of the possible real-world scenarios that await Marines upon their deployment.

"We're Marines. We don't just deploy somewhere and it's a candy show," Gunns said. "We have got people trying to kill us out there, so if we don't add that in to the training we won't be able to see the full potential of the unit that's here before they deploy out. If you don't practice what you could potentially be doing on a Marine expeditionary unit or wherever you're going, then you're going to be lost when it comes time for you to actually do your job. If you don't practice how you're going to work then it's pointless for you to deploy."

Marines going through the TRAP course receive classroom training and conduct practical application of the missions. After the Marines have an understanding of the exercise, they start conducting day and night rescue missions.

"It's something new for each unit that comes in here," said Tyler Jones, a TRAP instructor with SOTG, from Le Grande, Ore. "We teach them how to rescue personnel that are isolated whether it be aircraft personnel or sometimes other special unit teams."

Once Marines complete the TRAP course, they will continue to train for their upcoming deployments.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, carry out a notionally injured pilot during Tactical Rescue of Aircraft Personnel training, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 21, 2013. During the TRAP mission, instructors with Special Operations Training Group observed and monitored how the Marines reacted to multiple combat scenarios. The TRAP mission provides Marines with real-world scenarios to prepare them for deployment.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, provide security while awaiting a helicopter extract after rescuing a simulated downed pilot during Tactical Rescue of Aircraft Personnel training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 21, 2013. During the TRAP mission, instructors with Special Operations Training Group observed and monitored how the Marines reacted to multiple combat scenarios.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Japanese Language Course

A spring course is scheduled every Tuesday April 9 – June 25 7 – 9 p.m. at the Iwakuni Shimin Kaikan civic hall training room. For more information, call 253-5551. Only 40 seats are available on a first come, first serve, basis.

Cookout

The station's Food Services will host their first official 2013 barbecues March 28-29. Everyone aboard station is welcome with no additional cost to meal card holders. The cost for non-meal card holders is \$4.60. Grills will fire up in the parking lot of Building 5780 (adjacent to the control tower) March 28. Food Service will set up March 29 on the baseball field behind the parade deck. Both events are scheduled to run 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

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.

Parade of Uniforms

In honor of the Month of the Military Child, Matthew C. Perry's staff and students will present and enjoy the parade of uniforms. The parade is slated to begin at 8:30 a.m. in the

high school gymnasium. Home schooled children are invited to attend.

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.

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.

NMCRS

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 9-11 a.m.; April 25 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and April 30 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 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. Donators may then request a printed 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 with 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 community brief or classified 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.

MCAS Tax Center: Fast & Free Tax Service

The MCAS Iwakuni Tax Center is located on the first deck in Building 608 at the Station Judge Advocate's office. Hours of operation will be Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays in March from

8:00 a.m. to noon by appointment only.

Tax filers need to bring the following:

- Proof of a valid social security number or ITIN for both the tax filer and all dependants claimed on this year's tax return
- W-2 (wage and tax statement)
- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks earned on savings or checking accounts)
- Child care expenses
- Records reflecting spousal or child support payments

- Mortgage interest statement
- Individual retirement account (IRA) contributions
- Dividends, interest, and capital gains and losses from the sale of stocks, bonds or property
- Charitable contribution records

The general deadline for filing your tax year 2012 federal income tax return is April 15. For those stationed outside the continental U.S., the deadline is June 15.

KUNI TOONS: WELL, I HAVE A BULLET WOUND

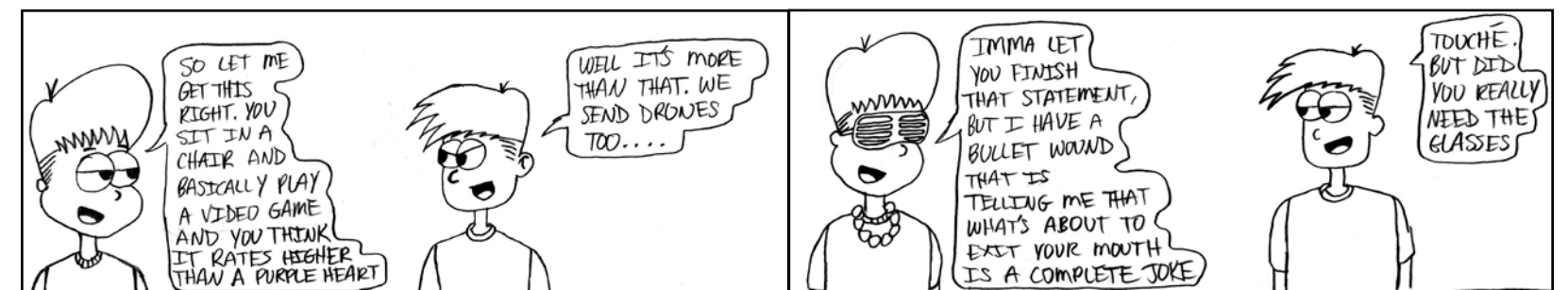


ILLUSTRATION BY CPL. MICHAEL DIAZ

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

TAKAYAMA FESTIVAL

The Takayama spring festival is a semiannual event held in the city of Takayama in the Gifu Prefecture and boasts elaborate decorative floats around the city at night known as "yatai." Each float is decorated so as to represent each district of the city.

The spring festival is also known as the Sanno Festival because it centered on the Sanno Shrine and is held to pray for a bountiful harvest.

The spring festival takes place on April 14-15.

WHITE FOX FESTIVAL

The Byakko Matsuri, or White Fox festival, celebrates the discovery of the Yuda Hot Spring at Yuda Onsen in the Yamaguchi prefecture. During the festival, held on the first weekend in April, portable shrines parade throughout the streets, inns are open to the public, and more. In the evening, small children dressed in white costumes and wearing fox masks hold a parade. Buses run regularly to Yuda Onsen bus stop from Yamaguchi Station (¥190, 10 minutes). From the station, follow the red road for about 1km to get to the busy main T-intersection. Turn right for the tourist office.

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

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 29, 2013

7 p.m. Warm Bodies (PG-13)
10 p.m. Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R)

Saturday, March 30, 2013

4 p.m. Escape from Planet Earth (PG)
7 p.m. Beautiful Creatures (PG-13)

Sunday, March 31, 2013

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

Monday, April 1, 2013

7 p.m. Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R)

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Theater closed

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Theater closed

Thursday, April 4, 2013

7 p.m. Warm Bodies (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.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Kanji Adventures : 白魚

TRANSPARENT FISH : Shirouo



Shirouo are two-inch transparent fish that are frequently eaten alive. As the seasons change and spring nears, Iwakuni fishermen will set up scaffolds along the Imazu and Monzen rivers. The scaffolds are designed to catch the tiny fish during high tide. The Shirouo swims up stream from late February until the end of April to lay their eggs.

This unusual fish is commonly served in a large bowl placed in the center of the table. The fish are usually grabbed with chopsticks and then placed into the mouth. Before devouring the small creatures, it is preferred that the consumer kills it by chewing it up, but swallowing it whole is not uncommon. One complaint from swallowing them whole is that the fish swim around and irritate the small intestine.

The Shirouo is commonly served in a sauce mixed with vinegar and soy sauce. Some Iwakuni restaurants serve the seasonal dish, and it is one of the Japanese ways to welcome spring.

MWSS-171 in Commander's Cup lead

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The fight for the Commander's Cup again came to center stage as units aboard station competed in the Commander's Cup Basketball Tournament March 23, 2013, at the outdoor basketball court near IronWorks Gym.

The tournament was a double-elimination event where even Marine Attack Squadron 513, a unit currently in the unit deployment program, took part.

"The Commander's Cup is designed to raise competition between different units on base," said Jason Knight, Marine Corps Community Services intramural sports specialist. "The different units already compete against each other in a joking manner, we just give them the chance to actually prove who is the best. We also have trophies for the winners."

With points toward the Commander's Cup on the line, MCCS wanted maximum participation from the units.

"We have seven teams, which make this the biggest turnout we have had this year, but this is only the third event, but we are still happy with the participation," said Knight. "There is no max as to the

number of players a team can have, but there are only three players on the court per team at a time."

The tournament came to a close with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 taking home the win against Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Air Traffic Control during overtime.

"We came out here to get a win," said Cpl. Otarius Napoleon, MWSS-171 supply administration chief. "I am new to Iwakuni and this is the first tournament I have played in here. So, I really wanted to get this first trophy and start an undefeated streak for MWSS-171 during my three-year tour."

Going into the final round, MWSS-171 required strategy to help break down the tough ATC team.

"The strategy for the final game was to stick with number 18, because he was wreaking havoc in their last game," said Napoleon. "The main goal was to try our best at defense and figure it out from there."

With the basketball tournament win going to MWSS-171, the next event is Earth Ball Soccer. Units who want to participate can call IronWorks intramural sports and sign up for a shot at the Commander's Cup.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 (purple), and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (red) battle it out in the final round of the Commander's Cup Basketball Tournament March 23, 2013, on the outdoor basketball court near IronWorks Gym. The tournament ended with MWSS-171 taking home the first-place trophy.



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Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 (purple), and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (red) battle it out in the final round of the Commander's Cup Basketball tournament March 23, 2013, on the outdoor basketball court near IronWorks Gym. The tournament ended with MWSS-171 taking home the first-place trophy.

"We came out here to get a win. I am new to Iwakuni and this is the first tournament I have played in here. So, I really wanted to get this first trophy and start an undefeated streak for MWSS-171 during my three-year tour."

Cpl. Otarius Napoleon,
MWSS-171 supply administration chief



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The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the April 19, 1974, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on station residents and Japanese celebrating hanami, translated to cherry blossom viewing, where people have picnics and admire the blooming cherry blossom trees.



CROSSING IT ALONE
IN THE COLD MOONLIGHT... THE BRIDGE
ECHOES MY FOOTSTEPS
TAIGI

WHITE CLOUD FLOATING LOW
AH... THE MOUNTAIN YOSHINO...
CHERRY CUMULUSI
RYOTA

UNDER THE CHERRY TREES
THE SALAD, SOUP, FISH AND ALL ...
SEASONED WITH PETALS
BASHO



LIVE IN SIMPLE FAITH ...
JUST AS THIS TRUSTING CHERRY
FLOWERS, FADES, FALLS
ISSA

