# http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcasiwakuni DAY 3 29 2013**PPROACH**

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



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, MCCS 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,

#### SEE WOMEN ON PAGE 3



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# **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER** 'Benefit of celebrating Easter' What better way is there for leaders to earn trust and respect by demonstrating their love and

Lt. Cmdr. Louis Lee COMMAND CHAPLAIN

It is said that Cyrus II of Persia, the founder of the First Persian Empire, once captured a prince and his family.

When they came before him, the monarch asked the prisoner, "What will you give me if I release vou'?

"The half of my wealth," was his reply.

"And if I release your children?" "Everything I possess." "And if I release your wife?"

"Your Majesty, I will give

myself." Cyrus was so moved by his devotion that he freed them all. As they returned home, the prince said to his wife, "Wasn't Cyrus a handsome man!"

With a look of deep love for her husband, she said to him, "I didn't notice. I could only keep my eyes on you- the one who was willing to give himself for me.<sup>2</sup> Devotion and sacrifice is a theme

we seldom hear these days.

We are busy running the rat race to make sure we all get to the finish line.

However, in the process of running the rat race, we miss out a lot of character-building, lifechanging, grace-embracing and spirituality. People dismiss religion by

saying it's just for old people, but nothing could be further from the truth.

There is a tremendous reward and benefit not to mention the improvement of the quality of life, mentally, emotionally, physically and, of course, spiritually.

General Amos said during his last visit that "[Marine Corps]... is almost spiritual..." and yet, Marines/Sailors dismiss the spiritual aspect of the Corps.

When we dismiss and ignore our need for spirituality, we're hindering ourselves from the empowered life to do greater things than ourselves. Core values, like devotion, sacrifice, and loyalty run rampant when we practice our spirituality.

respect for a higher power?

As a Christian chaplain, this is the reason celebrating Easter becomes important.

Easter message is the very core, central message of the Gospels where a loving God sent his own son to pay the penalty of sin by dying on the Cross.

This idea is mocked and ridiculed by many, dismissed by others, even declared as "preposterous" by educated philosophers.

But I say to you, there is no other greater love and genuine story of redemption than the Gospels in the history of the world.

If there is, I'll be the first one to jump to that ship.

Easter empowers us with daily hope, overflowing joy, continuous strength, and peace that passes all understanding.

I've seen people in their death bed, not afraid of dying. Marines and sailors praise God before their death in the battlefield.

Perhaps it is time for you to make Easter a reality in your own

We're ready to sit down and talk to you about it.

must be made

in yen

#### BASE-WIDE POWER OUTAGE

The air station will experience a base-wide power outage from April 5 at 10 p.m. to April 6 at 8 a.m. The power outage is required to perform maintenance on the station's electrical substation. which is the only connection with the local power

company. Dry ice will be distributed to family housing April 5 from 5-8 p.m. at the parking lots of midrises 1209 and 906. Barracks residents may retrieve dry ice from the barracks 203 parking lot during the same time.



April 1- April 30

have your title to pay tax

Heavy Vehicle Information

33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E

rear of the building.

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

will be at the Provost Marshal's Office pass-and-

registration section for heavy vehicle owners to

• 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

• Once your road tax is paid, bring the following

to the pass and registration section of the PMO

vehicle or motorcycle, Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), SOFA license and AFID card,

recycling fee receipt and new road tax receipt.

Japanese title, secondary insurance, the

building, to receive your new base decal:

pay their tax on station from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Plate:

100Y

Light vehicle and motorcycle information

Cost: ¥ 32,000 Plate: Cost: 50A, 40A, 580A more than 4,501cc — ¥ 22,000 ¥ 3,000 YAMA A, B  $\longrightarrow$  ¥ 1,00 IWAKUNI A, B, C  $\longrightarrow$  ¥ 500 less than 4,501cc — ¥ 19,000 ¥ 1.000 ¥ 7,500

• April 24 through 26, tax collectors from the city • 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.

#### **BAZAAR** FROM PAGE 1

everything from stress balls, paintings and katanas to more elaborate and unique pieces such as replica samurai armor and rugs.

The customer who did not readily find what he wanted at this bazaar had the option to special order an item and receive it at the fall bazaar.

#### WOMEN FROM PAGE 1

personal relationships, self-esteem, and others. "This was worth it," said Cruz. "When you pick up (staff noncommissioned officer), all that matters is your Marines. It's all about mission accomplishment and troop welfare. All this time and effort we're putting into this, we don't mind it. And one of these days, one of these enlisted



With the Issue." "Dealing With Others" and "The Person Within.

#### **USO** FROM PAGE 1

we can help with that helps these guys adjust with coming to Japan and making their experience here as best as possible, that's something we definitely want to be a part of."

The representatives first sat down with Lt. Col. F. Lance Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, H&HS sergeant major, and Sgt. Ryan

NEWS

# Servicemembers offered opportunity to shop, see unique items from across Asian Pacific

opportunity to experience different cultures. "It lets us see things we normally

Ayers said MCCS also attempts

to bring new vendors in to the

bazaar, along with vendors who

received special orders from the

The bazaar was open to SOFA status personnel and retirees.

For many servicemembers

on base, this was a unique

wouldn't see on a daily basis, meet new people and see unique items we wouldn't normally find back home," said Lance Cpl. Moriah L. Stalker, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 company clerk and bazaar shopper. "I think it's important because Marines don't always want to leave the barracks and see new things and this is an easier way for them to understand the unique culture

we face out here. It allows us to see it without having the fear of not knowing where we're going."

Anyone who wishes to experi-ence an MCCS bazaar has only to wait until the fall for the next scheduled event. At the fall ba zaar, event participants can once again experience the wonder of seeing many unique trinkets and baubles this part of the world has to offer.

## Senior leaders provide guidance, life lessons during Women's Leadership Symposium

men or women are going to take our place and do this symposium.

prior sale.

The event's name may have deceived some station residents, but the symposium was far from a female-only soiree.

most conflict "The women are going to find in the military is from men. One of the biggest things I have noticed, going through the ranks, is that it's because of a lack of

education on what women can bring to the table," said Staff Sgt. John P. Stewart, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 equal opportunity representative. men just became more educated about women's issues and what they're actually experiencing and hearing them voice it, it might enlighten them to what those issues are.

Just as the symposium

provided servicemembers the opportunity to take off their ranks and address controversial issues as equals, the information learned from this event can be useful in more situations than military service.

"I believe this is a life lesson." said Stewart. "There are already women in work places in the civilian world. Women are going to be there, they are

our wives, our sisters, our mothers, our daughters. Knowing how to properly interact with them in a professional environment is not such a military thing, it's a civilian thing, it's a cultural thing ... going out in the civilian world and having an understanding on how to communicate will make you much more desirable as an employee.

Attendees of the Women's Leadership Symposium talk during the "Finding the Balance" workshop, which took place inside Club Iwakuni here, March 19, 2013. The three other workshops for the event included, "Dealing

Kish, JRC noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

The topic of the meeting focused on the necessities of the JRC, such as towels, ironing boards, irons and other items typically taken for granted.

"We're very limited on funding here, we actually have zero funding, so everything is donated," said Kish.

the After the meeting, representatives viewed some of the rooms with Kish, where the focal point of conversation remained on the importance of first impressions.

impressions "First everything to someone. They can make or break someone here," said Kish. "What happens with the transition here in a week, that's the first impression."

Kish mentioned the desire to also hopefully receive entertainment items, such as video-game systems and computers for the JRC's lounge to improve the quality of

living for servicemembers new to Iwakuni.

Along with hygiene supply packs, towels, irons and other items, the USO representatives said they would confirm how much money they could donate to the JRC after their visit.

White and Bucayu-Domingo said they would determine the needs of the station throughout their several day tour, and assess how much help the USO can supply

#### **NEWS**

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, and a good learning experience

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

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 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,"

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 squadronlevel 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 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

"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 vancing 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."

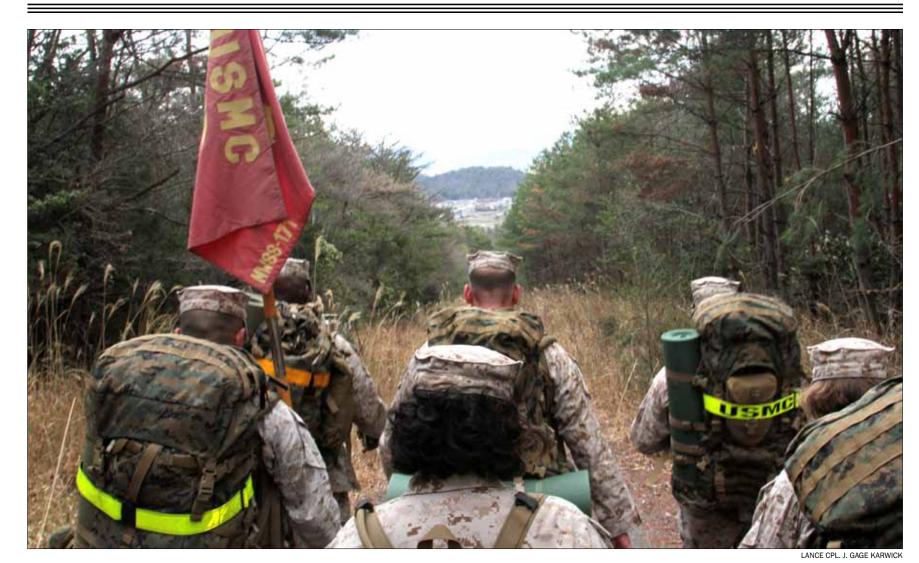
Together, the various units aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni conducted more than 365 community relations events in 2012 alone, an average of more than one a day.

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 been 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 or mutual benefit.



NEWS

# **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

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 or rigorous terrain consisting of rocky uphill slopes and deep ditches.

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.<sup>\*</sup>

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, Narines would check the Marine in front of them to make sure their equipment was not falling off or

#### RAIN OR LIGHT, DAY OR NIGHT, MARINES TRAIN DURING **EXERCISE THUNDER HORSE** Story and photos by Lance Cpl. James R. Smith IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF were, it made the leaders' jobs a lot easier. By the third day, I barely had to coach anyone through the scenarios.' Upon completion



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 of phyoy operations in a field environment

Sgt. Joshua Velasquez Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor runs across a road while his fellow Marines maintain security as part of a security sweep durin an afternoon convoy patrol in the Haran training area as part of March 19, 2013. Marines executed security convoy with different scenario including improvised





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 eer platoon commander and exercise security team leader, radio in a possible improvised explosive device during an oon convoy patrol in the Haramura training area as part of Exercise Thunder Horse, March 19, 2013.

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 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.

Litvin, MWSS-171 motor session. 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

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 According to 2nd Lt. Robert of a combat marksmanship

> "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

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

# 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.<sup>-</sup> 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

| The MCAS Iwakuni Tax Cer<br>608 at the Station Judge<br>be Monday - Friday 8 a.m                                 |
|--|
| <ul> <li>Proof of a valid social</li> <li>filer and all dependents clain</li> <li>W-2 (wage and tax s</li> </ul> |

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| Form 1099 (interest                     |
| or checking accounts)                   |
| Child care expenses                     |
| Records reflecting s                    |
|   |



# **CORPS NEWS** Real-world training prepares Narines for upcoming deployment

# Cpl. Mark Garcia I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. Instructors with Special Training Operations Ġroup 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 a helicopter insert, included 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 vou 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.



HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND

SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

rines with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Div ision, carry out a not 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

services provided, please contact the Substance Abuse Counseling Center at 253-4526, or visit Building 411 Room 219.

attend

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

high school gymnasium. Home schooled children are invited to

Substance Abuse Prevention

If you or anyone you know is

or for more information on

struggling with substance abuse

#### 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.

#### lobs

#### 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

ter is located on the first deck in Building 8:00 a.m. to noon by appointment only. Advocate's office. Hours of operation will to 4 p.m. and Saturdays in March from

I security number or ITIN for both the tax ned on this year's tax return atement)

statements from banks earned on savings

oousal or child support payments

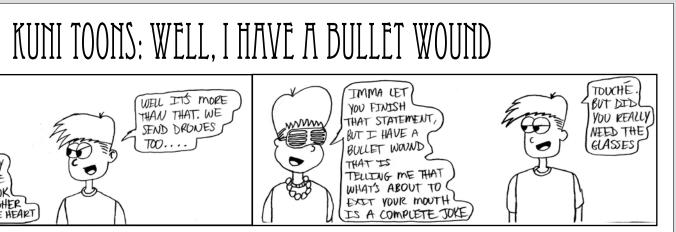


Mortgage interest statement

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.







# **Chapel Services**

2013 Easter & Holy Day Services

Roman Catholic

**NT** 1 00

| March 23   | 4:30 p.m. Confession<br>5:30 p.m. Palm Sunday Vigil<br>Mass                          |
|------------|--|
| March 24   | 8:15 a.m. Blessing of Palms<br>(In front of Chapel)<br>8:30 a.m. Palm Sunday<br>Mass |
| March 26   | 6:00 p.m. Lenten Penance<br>Service (confession)                                     |
| March 28   | 6:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's supper  |
| March 29   | 5:30 p.m. Observance of the<br>Lord's Passion  |
| March 30   | 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass  |
| March 31   | 8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday<br>Mass  |
| Protestant |  |
| March 29   | 7:30 p.m.  |
| March 31   | 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service<br>10:30 a.m. Worship Service<br>1:00 p.m. Worship Service |
|            | on regarding divine services,<br>ation or any other command                          |

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 Monday, April 1, 2013

7 p.m. Warm Bodies (PG-13) 7 p.m. Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R) 10 p.m. Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R) Tuesday, April 2, 2013

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)

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.

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Thursday, April 4, 2013

7 p.m. Warm Bodies (PG-13)

Theater closed

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

# *EIWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS*



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 creators, 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

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 doubleelimination event where even Marine Attack Squadron 513, a unit currently in the unit deployment program, took part. Commander's Cup is The 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 make this the biggest turnout we win going to MWSS-171, the next event is Earth Ball Soccer. Units participation from the units. "We have seven teams, which 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



Cpl. Otarius Napoleon, MWSS-171 supply administration chief

# **MWSS-171** in **Commander's Cup lead**

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.

who want to participate can call IronWorks intramural sports and sign up for a shot at the Commander's Cup.



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



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# The Induni 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 THE MOUNTAIN YOSHING ... 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

