

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 26 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



MCAS Iwakuni receives new CO

Former CO retires in ceremony on station

STORY ON PAGES 6-7

LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

Col. James C. Stewart, right, former station commanding officer, shakes hands with Col. Robert V. Boucher during the change of command and retirement ceremony held at the parade deck at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 12, 2013. Stewart finished his career with 29 years of service. Boucher comes to Iwakuni from his previous assignment at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

New station sergeant major takes charge

Pfc. D. A. Walters
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sergeant Major Steven L. Brown relinquished his post as Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni sergeant major to Sgt. Maj. Keith Massi during a relief and appointment ceremony at the parade deck here July 12, 2013.

In May of 2011, Brown reported aboard station to fulfill his duty as the station sergeant major.

Brown retired after 26 years of honorable and faithful service. At the end of the ceremony, Brown

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CLC-36 arrives in Fuji, ready to begin Dragon Fire 2013

Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan

— Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines and sailors arrived at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, July 8, to begin Exercise Dragon Fire 2013.

Dragon Fire 13 is CLC-36's annual Battle Skills Training exercise that focuses on improving the individual and collective combat skills of CLC-36 Marines and sailors with an emphasis on weapons familiarization training.

"This is not training for a specific contingency, this is training for any contingency," said Capt. Charles Johnston, CLC-36 commanding officer. "With the Marine Corps being the force in readiness, you

never know what's going to happen. Especially being in the Pacific, you have a whole spectrum of possible conflict or crisis management type operations you could be involved with, so you never know what's going to be the next thing that comes up. Being adaptable and having a knowledge base that affords you more options rather than less puts you ahead of the game."

The purpose of DF13 is to increase CLC-36's ability to function in a combat environment, build esprit de corps and facilitate engaged leadership.

In pursuit of these goals, Marines will conduct live fire exercises, participate in mentorship discussion groups, physical training events and finish with a motivational hike up Mount Fuji.

SEE FUJI ON PAGE 3



CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

The Combat Logistics Company 36 guidon stands on a range located on Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, underneath Mt. Fuji during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013, July 12. Dragon Fire 13 is CLC-36's annual Battle Skills Training exercise that focuses on improving individual and collective combat skills of CLC-36 Marines and sailors with an emphasis on weapons familiarization training.

FRAG OUT!

Dragon Fire 2013 starts off with a bang | P. 4



CHEF

Club Iwakuni's sous chef runs it all | P. 5



SOFTBALL

Reapers end regular season with a win | P. 11





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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Secret Rebel'

Lt. Cmdr. Louis Lee
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

Marines excel in following instructions and regulations.

Orders are given to be followed and obeyed, and we do it well.

However, there is the outward obedience we do so well because it is easy to carry it out. All we have to do is follow the orders and instructions.

That's it.

Every now and then, we have a Marine or a sailor who breaks the rules and regulations and gets into a heap of trouble. But for most of us, we follow given instructions in a skillful and professional manner.

For those who have been in the system long enough, it's almost as second nature as humping and reciting cadence. This is the trap most of us fall into: following outward, external rules and regulations thinking that's going

to make us good Marines and sailors.

The standard for a stellar Marine must not stop short of following all military rules and regulations. We have convinced ourselves that as long as we don't break any rules, we're good. The reality couldn't be further from it.

In order to measure ourselves as good Marines, we need to do away with all the outward, external performances and pretenses and focus in our inward, internal motives, thoughts, and beliefs.

What's the real stuff in our heart and soul?

What are we really made of?

Who are we when our layers of persona are peeled off?

What kind of Marine are you in the off hours?

In the Gospels, Jesus asked the law teachers the same question, because he saw how busy they were following and keeping the law rather than upholding the law in their hearts.

The teachers of the law would accuse Jesus for not washing his hands before eating or healing the lame on the Sabbath day.

Jesus responded by raising the standard even higher by saying that it's not what goes inside that is defiled, but what comes out.

Jesus then points out when we have hatred in our hearts, we have already committed murder, and when we look at another person and lust, we commit adultery.

This is a higher standard that's a constant reminder of God's presence in our lives and our need to depend on his grace each day.

I believe this is the very reason why Marines who practice faith are better and stronger.

It's not their external obedience that counts as much as their internal.

Where is your faith Marines?

For without faith, it is so easy to live our lives externally. When internally, we could be totally the opposite.

Let's not be content by merely following rules and regulations when our heart and mind is far from it.

Let's hold on to a faith that lives up to the true core values of honor, courage, and commitment from inside out.

CLC-36 prioritizes safety during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013

Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan — Sergeants and senior leaders from Combat Logistics Company participating in Exercise Dragon Fire 2013 attended a Range Safety Officer class aboard Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, July 9.

"This class ensures the safety and meeting of the requirements for the Camp Fuji ranges," said Sgt. Evan Rosado, a radio operator with CATC Camp Fuji and range scheduler. "We're out here as ambassadors, so we have to maintain the safety of all personnel and also to hone in on our skills and training; this class entails all that. This isn't just a check in the box. It's something that's going to help them train their units."

Participants watched an informative brief detailing all the rules and regulations of an RSO, which focused on maintaining good order and safety for all Camp Fuji ranges.

With such a heavy amount of effort stressed on safety when it comes to weapons handling, even those who have already taken the RSO class are required to re-attend and pass a written test before being recertified.

"I haven't done this for a while, so it's very important to get back into the loop of all the training and the safety concerns," said Staff Sgt. Guillermo Santiago Jr., a motor transportation maintenance chief for CLC-36. "Being a range safety officer is motivating, because you get to participate with the junior Marines and allow them to get to do what they love to do: shoot weapons and have fun, but safely. You have to make sure of everyone's safety; not just the people using the weapons, but all those around. The most important thing, overall, is all the

Marines safety. Making sure they all come back in one piece with their training."

Santiago added an anecdote from one of his previous experiences as a range safety officer.

"When we were doing a live fire one time, we had a Marine flag half the line; that Marine was tackled," said Santiago. "If that RSO hadn't been that up-to-point to stop what might have happened, that Marine might have killed some people."

Dragon Fire 13 is CLC-36's annual Battle Skills Training exercise that focuses on improving individual and collective combat skills of CLC-36 Marines and sailors with an emphasis on weapons familiarization training.

The purpose of DF13 is to increase CLC-36's ability to function in a combat environment, build esprit de corps and facilitate engaged leadership.



CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Sergeants and senior leaders from Combat Logistics Company participating in Exercise Dragon Fire 2013 attended a Range Safety Officer class aboard Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, July 9. The purpose of DF13 is to increase CLC-36's ability to function in a combat environment, build esprit de corps and facilitate engaged leadership.

A bid farewell to Sgt. Maj. Brown, welcome to Sgt. Maj. Massi

APPOINTMENT FROM PAGE 1

spoke of the love he has towards his family and friends, and the unconditional love and support his family showed him throughout the years.

"I know you guys have sacrificed a lot more in more ways than I have," said Brown. "I sure appreciate that."

Brown scanned the crowd, looked for friendly faces, and thanked those who helped or inspired him throughout his time here.

Colonel James C. Stewart, previous station commanding officer who also relinquished his duty in the ceremony prior, worked closely with Brown through their years aboard station. Stewart spoke of Brown in a heartfelt manner which explained, from his point of view, what Brown's presence added to the station.

"Sergeant Major Brown, it's going to be a loss," said Stewart. "A loss to the Marine Corps, and a loss to Air Station Iwakuni as you depart the active duty ranks. Throughout his career and as long as I have known him, he has been focused on leading Marines,

taking care of Marines and family, both professionally and personally."

Massi is taking on a new challenge as this is his first time tackling the duty and learning the role as a military installation sergeant major.

"I promise you, if you give me some time to fill Sergeant Major Brown's boots, which is going to be a hard thing to do or if I don't do anything or find something for you, please let me know what I'm supposed to be doing for you," said Massi.

Massi enlisted in December 1988, and graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

He then continued to Marine Corps Artillery Detachment Fort Sill, Okla., where he graduated as the Honor Graduate of his class and obtained the primary military occupational specialty of Marine Artillery Fire Directional Controlman.

Throughout the years, Massi supported Operations: Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Thunder, Safe Departure, Determined Response, Iraqi Freedom and humanitarian relief operations.

Massi, who brings 25 years of Marine Corps experience to the table, concluded the ceremony to carry out his duty as the air station's sergeant major.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

Col. Robert V. Boucher, Marine Corps Air Station commanding officer, passes the Sword of Office to Sgt. Maj. Keith Massi during a relief and appoint ceremony July 12, 2013. Boucher assumed the billet of station commanding officer in the ceremony that took place before the relief and appointment.

In every clime and place, chaplains follows Marines abroad

Cpl. B. A. Stevens
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines face adversity throughout their careers. Often times these struggles come on deployments, but there is someone who is always willing to help.

Despite their backgrounds, beliefs or jobs, Marines and sailors have religious needs that must be met. The ones who meet those needs are chaplains.

"The basic mission of the Chaplain Corps is to provide ministries for all of our servicemembers, wherever we require them to go," said Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, Marine Aircraft Group 12 Chaplain. "Since the American government requires servicemembers to go away from their hometowns, away from their perishes or church communities, the government has servicemembers who can provide those religious ministries for them."

Even though deployments and training exercises are just phases that eventually pass, it's important to have a chaplain for every step of the process.

"During the exercise people go through stuff, they get an e-mail from back home of some discouraging news ... sometimes it's hard to keep all that stuff in. Sometimes

you might need to talk to somebody who can give you a different perspective or just listen to you as you sit there and cry. Having someone with 100 percent confidentiality who can't repeat anything you say without your written consent is an important thing," said Wallingford.

Having the chaplain around for emergencies is a necessity, but it also helps Marines with hardships they face in their daily work.

"The Marines are impacted by the chaplain in a very positive way," said Seaman Sean Woodall, religious program specialist for MAG-12.

Woodall said that when Marines see the chaplain around and know their religious needs are provided for, it definitely boosts their morale.

One such way Chaplain Wallingford provides for religious needs is through a program she created called, "Preach on the Beach."

"Because we are staying out in town and we're about 25 minutes away from the base where the chapels are, I decided to go ahead and start 'Preach on the Beach,' which is just a ten minute walk from the hotel," said Wallingford. "Marines and sailors who have been working hard don't have to get dressed

in anything other than their beach gear to go to church."

The 'Preach on the Beach' services are offered every Sunday at 10 a.m. while Marines from Iwakuni are in Guam.

"I want people to have the opportunity to connect with god and worship in a way that they feel they need to," said Wallingford. "Just because we are on deployment and away from our home doesn't mean that we can't come and worship with another group of believers."

Marines are alike in many ways, but not all worship in the same way, however all are welcome to attend 'Preach on the Beach' "Catholic, Jewish, Muslim or whatever it is, I will help you find where you can go to worship in the way that you need to," said Wallingford.

Marines are forced to adapt and overcome. Having a chaplain helps deal with those struggles regardless of the location.

"I care," said Wallingford. "I literally care about every Marine and sailor. So to be able to express that in some tangible way that lets them know that even though this exercise might be tough, even though getting up in the daily grind might be difficult, there's a smile, there's somebody who actually cares about the fact that they're here and alive."

FUJI FROM PAGE 1

The final goals of DF13 is for CLC-36 Marines to be capable of performing Marine Corps Common Skills to the standards set forth by the commander's intent at a minimum expense and in a time-efficient manner that develops a greater sense of unit cohesion, confidence and morale.

Even with a majority of the training taking place once participants arrive at Camp Fuji, there is special emphasis placed upon the two-day convoy that traverses almost 500 miles to reach its destination.

"This is the longest

convoy that anybody in (3rd Marine Expeditionary Force) does," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Aaron Isaac, maintenance officer for CLC-36. "For us to be on the road this long, interacting with all those little vehicles driving around our big seven-ton is very challenging because you really have to pay attention to everything around you."

Given the small area CLC-36 Marines are normally permitted to practice driving in Iwakuni, such extensive training proves to further improve an essential skill: knowing how to drive.

"Over half of our platoon

is maintenance, and over half of maintenance is Motor-T," said Isaac. "All maintenance Marines need to know how to do long-distance convoys. When we did the invasion on Baghdad, it wasn't a simple 20-mile run. It was, start at Kuwait and go all the way up; push it and push it fast. Marines need to know how to convoy, how to be comfortable in the vehicles. They need to know the vehicles and how to load the vehicles so they stay safe while they're on the convoy."

Such a long drive also provides an excellent opportunity for CLC-36 Marines to gain experience

behind the wheel. "The Marines don't get to move the vehicles very much," said Isaac. "This is the one time of the year they get to open the vehicles up and stretch their legs, and by stretch their legs I mean drive for a long, long distance; get off base and drive. This is the only time of the year they get to do it and they performed amazingly."

With DF13 being an annual exercise, some participants find the opportunity to return for a dual perspective.

"I came here last year as a lance corporal and it was really fun. This was something we haven't

done since (Marine Combat Training) but it was less stressful, so you got to get out there and show what you're made of," said Cpl. Michael Gutschmidt, a heavy equipment mechanic with CLC-36 and squad leader of 1st squad, 2nd platoon.

"The motivation I put out, my squad feeds back, which is really cool. The time and effort I put into it, they'll give me back tenfold. The first time I did this, my goal was to stand out, be motivated and do well. My goal for this year is to stand out among the other platoons and have my platoon stand out and be motivated."



CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Servicemembers duck as a grenade explodes during a training exercise located on a grenade range at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013, July 10. Training participants started training by rehearsing throwing techniques, then moved on to using the M-69 practice grenade, commonly known as a "blue body."

TRAINING

Marines refresh grenade handling during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013

Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan — "Thumb clip, twist, pull pin, prepare to throw, frag out!"

These words echoed throughout a grenade range located on Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji as Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines conducted practice and live-fire grenade training.

The training is part of Exercise Dragon Fire 2013. DF13 is CLC-36's annual battle skills training exercise that focuses on improving individual and collective combat skills of CLC-36 Marines and sailors with an emphasis on weapons familiarization training.

"Here at CLC-36, we don't get the opportunity to get out and do this type of training except for this exercise every year. So for us, we try to take full advantage of it," said Gunnery Sgt. Jason Rodriguez, supply administration chief for CLC-36 and range safety officer. "Today, we got to go out and throw the M-67 grenade. Each Marine got to throw three blue bodies (M-69 practice grenade), as well as one grenade. We had some left over, so even the (commanding officer) and some of the other key personnel got to throw the grenade."

While using grenades may not be something the Marines of CLC-36 do on a daily basis, it's training such as this that keeps the Marine Corps ready for combat.

"This training is a huge refresher for everybody, including (staff

noncommissioned officers) and officers, but most importantly for the junior Marines, who get out and get that feeling of doing what Marines do best: training and fighting in combat," said Rodriguez. "It's always said: no matter what your job is, no matter what your rank is, no matter what your (Military Occupational Specialty) is, there is always the opportunity that you could find yourself in combat and so you really never know. Getting the opportunity to do this refreshes us just in case we are faced with a combat situation."

From practice throws, to the rehearsing of ditties and correct posture, to the end state of throwing a live grenade, safe training proved to be the prime goal of those in attendance.

Rodriguez also stressed the importance of safety and the steps taken to make sure everyone from the (privates first class) up to the commanding officer get together and make sure they know what they're doing to ensure everyone's safety.

Even with the M-67 training completed and all grenade debris cleared from the ground, CLC-36 Marines can now say they've had another taste of what some would call, what being a Marine really feels like.

"It was a lot of fun; it went fast, but you learn a lot from it," said Lance Cpl. Samantha Smith, a heavy equipment mechanic with CLC-36. "Who doesn't like to throw a grenade? I mean, I get paid to do this."



CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Marines with Combat Logistics Company 36 practice throwing M-69 practice grenades, known commonly as "blue bodies," on a grenade range located on Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013, July 10. Training participants started training by rehearsing throwing techniques, then moved on to using the M-69 and lastly a live grenade.

CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

A Marine prepares to throw an M-67 grenade while on a grenade range located at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013, July 10. The purpose of DF13 is to increase CLC-36's ability to function in a combat environment, build esprit de corps and facilitate engaged leadership. In pursuit of these goals, Marines will conduct live fire exercises, participate in mentorship discussion groups, physical training events and finish with a hike up Mount Fuji.

Part 3: Leadership in kitchen



Mori Nobu, left, Club Iwakuni sous chef, walks with another chef as they check food preparation before serving it at a reception for Col. James C. Stewart, former station commanding officer, in the Club Iwakuni ballroom at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 12, 2013. Nobu has 13 years of experience at Club Iwakuni and is second-in-command of the kitchen.

A look inside Club Iwakuni's second-in-command Mori Nobu

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

The previous episode of this series took a look into the watchful eyes of Seiji Shoya, Club Iwakuni supervisor, and his role of ensuring good looking and great tasting food made its way to hungry customers. Now, it's time to move another notch up the club's chain of command.

Our next chef in this series of culinary excellence is Mori Nobu, Club Iwakuni sous chef. Nobu, who has worked at Club Iwakuni for 13 years, is the second-in-command for the entire kitchen.

"Nobu's job is to support whatever I'm doing," said Troy Guyer, Club Iwakuni executive chef. "I'll come up with the menus; he's the one who puts them together. He's running the kitchen as far as the cooking goes and is responsible for the supervisors as well."

Guyer mentioned in addition to putting together menus and supervising other chefs, Nobu is in charge of scheduling work times for all the chefs in the kitchen.

Guyer said one skill Nobu has is great public relations within the kitchen.

"If there is one person arguing with another, he will diffuse it," said Guyer. "Almost three years now, there have been no major

fight in the kitchen. It used to happen a lot before Nobu got here."

Although a majority of his time is spent putting menus together and planning times, Nobu gets the opportunity to cook when extra help is needed, such as preparing sample dishes for taste testing for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball menu and providing assistance for the most recent event: a reception in the Club Iwakuni ballroom for Col. James C. Stewart, former station commanding officer, July 12, 2013.

While going through the routine of preparing for any type of event, there is one thing Nobu always strives for.

"All I want to do is make the customer happy," said Nobu. "I try to envision their expression when preparing for events."

Even though retirement is nowhere near for him, Nobu still has a plan for when that time finally comes.

"Once I retire, I want to go sight-seeing," said Nobu. "I just want to be able to see the world and relax."

With all the tasks Nobu is able to handle and accomplish, his fellow workers have confidence in his abilities.

"If I drop dead tomorrow, he would still be running this place, so I'm not worried," said Guyer. "Club Iwakuni is in very capable hands with Chef Nobu."



Mori Nobu, back, Club Iwakuni sous chef, assists a chef prepare food for a reception at Club Iwakuni at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 12, 2013. With most of his time being spent on preparing events and scheduling work times for employees, Nobu gets to assist in cooking for large events.



Mori Nobu, right, Club Iwakuni sous chef, walks with another chef as they check food preparation before serving it at a reception for Col. James C. Stewart, former station commanding officer, in the Club Iwakuni ballroom at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 12, 2013. Nobu helps prepare the food once Troy Guyer, Club Iwakuni executive chef, finishes writing out the menu.



MCAS Iwakuni welcomes new CO



Col. James C. Stewart, former Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, passes the organizational colors to Col. Robert V. Boucher during a change-of-command ceremony at the parade deck here July 12, 2013. The exchange of the organizational colors is symbolic of the transfer of command from the outgoing commanding officer to the oncoming commanding officer.

Sgt. Justin Pack
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Col. James C. Stewart relinquished his duties as commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, to Col. Robert V. Boucher during their change of command ceremony at the parade deck here, July 12, 2013.

Stewart, assumed command of MCAS Iwakuni on June 30, 2010. During his time as commander, MCAS Iwakuni has taken part in many operations and exercises that bolstered the American and Japanese alliance, notably, Operation Tomodachi, which was the United States' humanitarian response for those affected by the Japanese earthquake and tsunami in March of 2011.

"To the air station staff, active duty, civilians, United States and Japanese, thank you," stated Stewart during his farewell speech. "It has been a supreme pleasure and an honor to have worked with you for these past three, eight, and in some cases, twenty one years. You have literally changed the face of this air station and community; you have created a legacy that will benefit sailors and Marines, their families, for the next 50 to 70 years."

The ceremony was Stewart's final, as he retired after the change of command with 29 years of honorable and faithful service.

Stewart ended his remarks with a quote from the famous Nez Perce leader, Chief Joseph. "From where the sun now stands, I shall fight no more forever."

After Stewart spoke, Boucher took the mic, briefly spoke to the crowd and then focused his attention on his command.

"To the Marines and sailors," said Boucher. "I look forward to working with you and leading you through the next three years. Semper fidelis."

Boucher came here from the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C., where he served as the Deputy Director, Programs and Budget, in the Finance and Resource Management division.

Boucher is a graduate of Eastern Washington University, he received his commission in August of 1989 and became a naval aviator in July of 1992. He has deployed with the both the 13th and 15th Marine Expeditionary Units, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, where in 2010, he was the commanding officer of the last Marine Corps operational squadron and combat unit in Iraq.

In 2003, Boucher reported to Marine Helicopter Squadron One, which is responsible for the transportation of the president, vice president, cabinet members and other VIPs. In 2006, he became a Marine One pilot and traveled to multiple countries and numerous states in support of President George W. Bush.

Boucher has accumulated more than 6,000 mishap free flight hours and his personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star, Air Medal with combat distinguishing device, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a gold star.



Col. James C. Stewart, former Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, salutes for the playing of the National Anthem during his change of command ceremony at the MCAS Iwakuni parade deck, July 12, 2013.

SGT. JUSTIN PACK



Col. James C. Stewart, former Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni command officer, addresses the crowd during his change of command ceremony, July 12, 2013. Stewart relinquished command to Col. Robert V. Boucher and retired during the ceremony.



Col. Robert V. Boucher, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, addresses the crowd after taking command from Col. James C. Stewart at the MCAS Iwakuni parade deck, July 12, 2013. Boucher assumed command of MCAS Iwakuni after working at the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the past two years.



The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band plays during the Marine Corps Air Station change of command ceremony, July 12, 2013 at the MCAS Iwakuni parade deck. During the ceremony Col. James C. Stewart relinquished command to Col. Robert V. Boucher and then retired after 29 years of service.



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, Marine Corps Installations Pacific commanding general, addresses the crowd during the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni change of command ceremony, July 12, 2013 at the MCAS Iwakuni parade deck. Hudson visited MCAS Iwakuni, June 21, to present the Achievement in Safety award to Col. James C. Stewart, former MCAS Iwakuni commanding officer.



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, Marine Corps Installations Pacific commanding general, addresses the crowd during the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni change of command ceremony, July 12, 2013 at the MCAS Iwakuni parade deck. Hudson visited MCAS Iwakuni, June 21, to present the Achievement in Safety award to Col. James C. Stewart, former MCAS Iwakuni commanding officer.

LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

PFC. D. A. WALTERS

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



CPL. JOHN M. MCCALL

Tankers provide unique asset during mechanized assault

Cpl. John M. McCall
4TH MARINE DIVISION

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Marines with Company F, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division participated in a Mechanized Assault Course as part of Integrated Training Exercise 4-13 at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, June 23-24.

ITX is the largest annual Marine Forces Reserve training exercise and a cornerstone of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Program, with more than 5,000 Marines participating from units across the United States.

The MAC incorporated a variety of different fire-support assets such as: attack helicopters, artillery, tanks, and amphibious assault vehicles.

"If we actually went to combat we would need to effectively interact with other units," said Lance Cpl. Samuel Garcia, tank crewman, and native of Okeechobee, Fla. "We're used to working as a small team, but now there are a few hundred Marines to work with. It is very different and can be challenging at times, but it makes the training much more realistic." With such a large force depending on them, tankers need to be proficient in their job skills to accomplish the mission.

"After an exercise like this you get to see the big picture, not just your job," Garcia said. "You see how everything comes together and how everyone has to work together to make it happen."

The M1A1 Abrams tank that the Marines operate brings numerous force multipliers to the battlefield that other assets cannot.

"An infantry unit can only go so far, air support can only do so much, artillery can only be so precise, but tanks go in with the ability to go where other forces can't," Garcia said. "Tanks can go in with speed, armor and fire power all in one element."

Even though tanks have been designed for all types of terrain, Co. F tankers are limited to what their training station has to offer them.

"The terrain is very different than what we are used to training on. The heat and sand help to simulate a deployed environment," said Lance Cpl. Sam Aguilera, tank crewman, and native of Jacksonville, N.C. "It definitely keeps us on our toes and ready for anything."

Co. F's junior Marines had the opportunity to gain a wealth of experience operating in this desert environment for the first time.

"Some of our less-experienced Marines have never had the chance to come out here and do this kind of training before. A live-fire exercise like this puts a little more experience under their belts," said Cpl. Joshua Fernandez, a tank commander, and native of Los Angeles. "It will enable them to pass on knowledge to their peers and subordinates when they become leaders themselves."

For many of the infantry Marines, this was their first time working alongside the massive M1A1 Abrams tank. With its 120mm main gun and jet engine, the M1A1 can add lethal firepower and speed to any ground element.

"This really helped us show Marines what we are capable of doing," said Cpl. Wayne Kendall, a tank gunner, and native of Washington, N.C. "Tanks are an extremely effective tool on the battlefield."

An exercise like the MAC puts a large amount of combined arms together in a single area. Tankers were able to engage multiple simulated targets at known and unknown distances while coordinating with ground and air units to simulate a combat situation.

"I've never seen anything as big as this exercise," Kendall added. "Just seeing all of the different assets together is very impressive. We don't have a large scale training center like this back home, so we try to take advantage of it as much as possible."

Tank units have deployed to Afghanistan often, but many are given alternate missions that don't involve using their 69-ton vehicles. Co. E, 4th Tank Bn, became a route-clearance platoon during their deployment overseas and Co. F may do the same in the



CPL. JOHN M. MCCALL

Marines with Company F, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division load ammunition onto an M1A1 Abrams tank during the mechanized assault course at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center June 23, 2013. The Marines were participating in Integrated Training Exercise 4-13, a cornerstone of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Program. It is the largest annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve training exercise helping to establish best practices and refine planning guidance and baseline requirements for future Reserve units.

following months.

"Regardless of whether we are deploying or not, we still have to be prepared," added Aguilera. "I'd rather have the training and not need it than need it and not have it."

ITX 4-13 is a cornerstone of

the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Program. It is the largest annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve training exercise; helping establish best practices, refine planning guidance and baseline requirements for future Reserve units.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Crime Stoppers

To report a crime, call 253-3333. Callers can leave a detailed message without having to speak to a live person.

Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS is in need of volunteers. If you like teaching, playing games, building, etc. allow your gifts and talents to be manifested in this opportunity. This year's theme is Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God. VBS is scheduled August 19-23, 2013 from 5-7:30 p.m. daily. To register to volunteer or to attend, please go to <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/IwakuniVBS>. For more information contact Linda Brown at, 253-2419 or email godsvessel93@aol.com.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society provides Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term

living expenses up to \$500, interest-free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

Nutrition Information Class

A Nutrition Video Tele Conference class is scheduled at the conference room in the Branch Health Clinic Aug. 16, 2013, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Lt. j.g. Elaina Ortiz, U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, will discuss basic nutrition information including weight management, and other topics pertaining to healthier dietary lifestyle changes. To sign up or for more information, call 253-3445. Sign up is open until Aug. 13.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

Put these numbers in your wallet and phone:

- Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837).
- Life limb or loss-of-vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911.

 From a cell phone or for

bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.

- For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.
- Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

Contractor Gate

Recently, the Contractor Gate has experienced traffic congestion due to heavy use. Due to the congestion, the Provost Marshal's Office requests that personnel who are not contractors (Active Duty Military, JMSDF, MLC/IHA employees, etc.) access the installation via the Main Gate or Monzen Gate and refrain from using the Contractor Gate, including bicycle riders. For more information, call 253-6942.

Jobs

Dental Hygienist

The U.S. Navy currently seeks one Dental Hygienist at 3rd Dental Battalion at U.S. Naval Dental Center, Iwakuni. Minimum requirements include, a registered dental hygienist certification, must have excellent healthcare administrative and outstanding patient care skills, 3 letters of recommendation. Must successfully complete and pass a Background Investigation. This is not a civil service position. This is a full time position of 40 hours a week. Call 253-4628 for inquiries.

ESP Position

Engineering Support Personnel, Inc. is seeking qualified simulators/electronics/IT technicians for its WESTPAC COMS program. Applicants are required to have a minimum of four years electronics maintenance experience and be a graduate from a two-year electronics technician resident course or equivalent. The ability to obtain a Secret Security Clearance

is required. Positions are located at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan; Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. Applicants should send their resume to John Russell at jrussell@espinc1.com or FAX to 407-206-4921.

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. Alternatively, You may submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. However you choose to submit, ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

Christmas in July

Purchase in July SAVE in December

Here's How It Works

For every \$10 you spend at the MCX, Marine Marts or Furniture Annex, you receive a \$1 SANTA BUCK.

Santa Bucks can only be redeemed for purchases made July 1-31, 2013. Any purchases after July 31 will not qualify for Santa Bucks. Santa Bucks may be redeemed December 1-24 and are only valid for redemption at Marine Corps Exchange Retail facilities. They are not valid for the purchase of concessions, alcohol, tobacco, or gift cards. Santa Bucks have no cash value, are not refundable for cash and may not be used in conjunction with payment on Star Card accounts.

Additional rules apply, see the Marine Corps Exchange for complete details. Expires: 12/24/2013

SANTA BUCKS are back!

INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education

Mon. — Thurs. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass

Protestant

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

Monday 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study

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

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

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

2nd and 4th Saturday 10 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist

Bahai

Sunday 11 a.m. Bahai Meeting

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

OUT AND ABOUT: Japan

OTAKE WAKI-KAWA FIREWORKS

These fireworks are in mark the 40th anniversary since the Waki town government was established. Fireworks start at 8:10 p.m. at Yamato Bridge over Oze River, Otake City, Hiroshima Pref. 1,000 fireworks. No parking is available. The event site is an 8-minute walk from JR Waki station. For more information, contact Otake Tourist Association at 0827-52-3105.

THE 24TH MIYOSHI COOL OF SUMMER FIREWORKS

The event takes place from 6 - 10:30 p.m. at downtown Tokushima City, Tokushima Pref. Awaodori is a passionate dance with a history spanning more than 400 years. Approximately 1,000 groups, 100,000 dancers and 1,350,000 tourists visit Tokushima City during the event. There is an opportunity for anybody to join in the traditional dance called, "Niwaka-ren." The Awaodori is open to all. If you would like to join the "Niwaka-ren," go to Tokushima City Hall or Motomachi Odori Hiroba at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. between August 12 - 15 to receive a class from the veteran dancers. For more information, contact Tokushima Tourist Association at 088-622-4010.

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, July 19, 2013
1 p.m. Despicable Me (2010) (PG)
7 p.m. This is the End (R)
10 p.m. The Purge (R)

Saturday, July 20, 2013
4 p.m. After Earth (PG-13)
7 p.m. Man of Steel (R)

Sunday, July 21, 2013
4 p.m. Now You See Me (PG-13)
7 p.m. Man of Steel (PG-13)

Monday, July 22, 2013
Theater reserved for training

Tuesday, July 23, 2013
Theater closed

Wednesday, July 24, 2013
Theater closed

Thursday, July 25, 2013
1 p.m. The Princess and the Frog (2009) (G)
7 P.M. Man of Steel (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 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



Kanji Adventures
PAPER LANTERNS

ちょうちん
提灯
Chochin

PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

Chochin, or paper lanterns, are one of many unique artifacts in Japan.

Westerners who have ventured into surrounding communities

MAY be curious about the oblong paper lanterns hanging outside various restaurants and shrines.

Paper lanterns were once both practical and ornamental, but

with the advent of electricity, the practicality diminished.

Today the lantern is used mainly during traditional ceremonies such as Obon. During Obon, it is believed the lantern would help to guide ancestral spirits to and from the land of the living.

Made in a variety of shapes and sizes, certain lanterns were popular among selective classes during Japan's feudal days. The traditional Japanese lantern, "Chochin," consists of a bamboo-ribbed frame wrapped with rice paper. Chochin are painted with designs and/or words, as appropriate, to match their intended use.

Among the various lanterns are the "Odawara," used by travelers long ago, and the "Yumihari," used

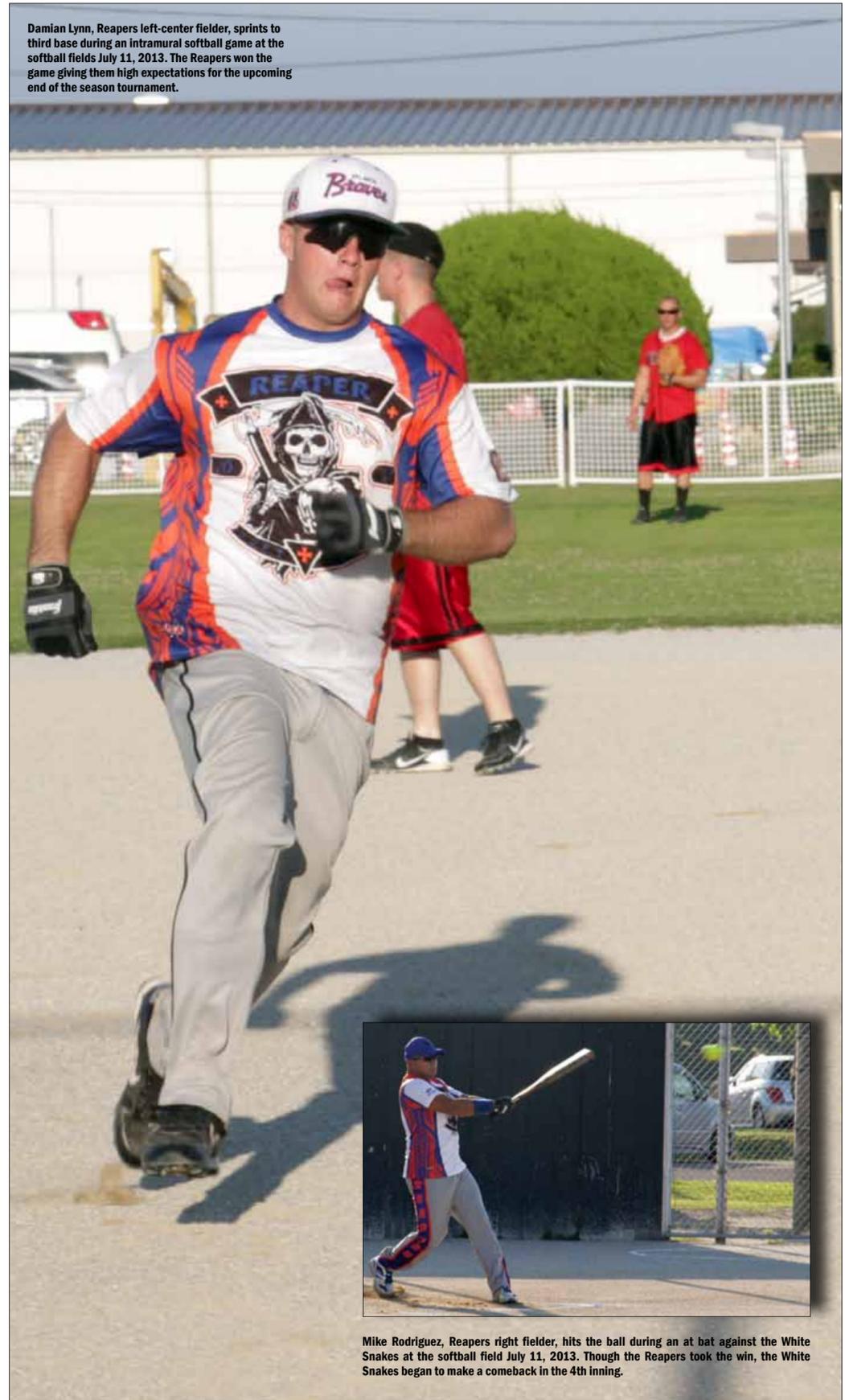
by the samurai and merchants later during the great feudal period.

During festivals, the most common lantern used is the oval shaped "Takahari," which is hung from long poles. The "Hozuki," or ground lantern, is round like a cherry and is generally smaller than other lanterns.

Many lanterns of the plastic imitation variety can be purchased at any of the numerous lighting fixture shops around Iwakuni.

Both traditional paper and modern plastic lanterns are commonly on display throughout Japan. They are also displayed in the U.S. by Americans who find them to be practical lighting, ornamental and/or interesting conversation pieces.

Reapers take win over White Snakes 19-9



Damian Lynn, Reapers left-center fielder, sprints to third base during an intramural softball game at the softball fields July 11, 2013. The Reapers won the game giving them high expectations for the upcoming end of the season tournament.

Story and photos by
Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Bats swung during an intramural softball game July 11, 2013, as the Reapers went head-to-head with the White Snakes at the softball field located behind the parade deck here.

This game marked an all or nothing bout for the White Snakes, who needed a win to stay alive in the regular season.

The game started out on an even playing field until the second inning as the Reapers quickly established their dominance on the field.

"We are playing our biggest opposing team; the Reapers," said Beckie Belcher, White Snakes coach. "We knew it was going to be a challenge. I was hoping for a little more heckling and giving each other a hard time, but we are just having fun playing softball."

As the game played on, the White Snakes began to mount a tremendous comeback in the fourth inning.

"We came out here to win," said Mike Rodriguez, Reapers right fielder. "It never crossed our minds that we may lose. We have won every game except for one, so this is just another one down for us."

Though it looked like the White Snakes had returned in the fourth, the level headedness of the Reapers, along with outstanding defensive skills, held the White Snakes off to seal their victory with a score of 19-9.

With their victory over the White Snakes, the Reapers have high hopes for the end of the season tournament, which is quickly approaching.

"We are looking forward to playing in the end of the season tournament," said Rodriguez. "We are pretty confident that we are going to win it and take home that trophy. It's been a really great season coming out here and playing with these guys. That's what it's all about; a good time."

Though the White Snakes ended their regular season on a loss, hopes are still high for the tournament.

"This is the end of the season, but the end of the season tournament is coming up on the 20th," said Belcher. "This game is very exciting. You go from doing bad to getting on a run streak, so ups and downs."

The end of the season tournament begins July 20, 2013, as the teams face off at the softball field and slug it out for the coveted first place trophy.

Mike Rodriguez, Reapers right fielder, hits the ball during an at bat against the White Snakes at the softball field July 11, 2013. Though the Reapers took the win, the White Snakes began to make a comeback in the 4th inning.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the July 19, 1991, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on a Japanese Bon Dance to welcome spirits, the proper use of green telephones in Japan, the realignment of the operations departments to form Station Operations and a Maintenance Division, a visit to Miyajima by Red Cross volunteers, a softball tournament, and a new military police bicycle patrol in an effort to curb thefts.



Kathy Wright gets pulled over by the PMO bicycle patrol.

Two-wheeled patrolmen ...a unique way to enforce the law

The bicycle is a very popular mode of transportation in Japan. The Bicycle Patrol's primary job is helping to increase safety for bicyclists and to help cut down on thefts. The program went into effect April 15 and is having successful results.

Corporal Darrell Howard, the NCOIC of the Bicycle Patrol, and four other riders make up the team. Those riders are LCpls. Diron Owens, Damon Smith, William Greenland and an alternate, Jerry Mitchell. These five Marines patrol the air station, working on 12-hour shifts.

In the past, many bicycles have been reported stolen. According to GySgt. Ausby Alexander, PMO's Operations Chief, "Larceny of private property is one of the biggest problems on the air station."

Since the Bicycle Patrol has been in operation, 70 percent of the bicycles stolen have been recovered. Five to six percent of them have been recovered by the owner.

Although this program is directed towards bicyclists, this does not exempt the riders from performing their duties as military policemen. They can respond to any call, if requested.

The Bicycle Patrol program is helpful in assuring that

patrons on the air station are aware of the rules and regulations of riding a bicycle. Presence of the Bicycle Patrol has helped reduce the number of violators. It has also caused people to want to become more familiar with the do(s) and don't(s) of riding a bicycle.

Bicyclists caught riding at night without a light for example, will be stopped and asked to walk their bicycles. They will also receive a Bicycle Offense Report (BOR). If an individual is stopped more than twice, an Incident Complaint Report (ICR) will be done by the Military Police Bicycle Patrol and forwarded to the individual's unit.

Bicyclists are not allowed to ride while intoxicated either. A rider stopped for being intoxicated will be cited for a DWI or DUI. "It only takes a couple of drinks to become impaired on a bike," said Owens, "We're not out to get anyone, we are just insuring the safety of the air station."

The riders of the Bicycle Patrol have their hands full. It is no easy task to ride a bike for hours in camouflage utilities under the hot and humid skies. "Riding on the bike with the sun beating down on us is hard on our bodies. Therefore, we are required to intake a lot of water," said Smith. "I feel the Bicycle Patrol has done an outstanding job and is well justified. This is a relatively new project and everyone needs to give it a chance to work by supporting it to the fullest extent," said Alexander.

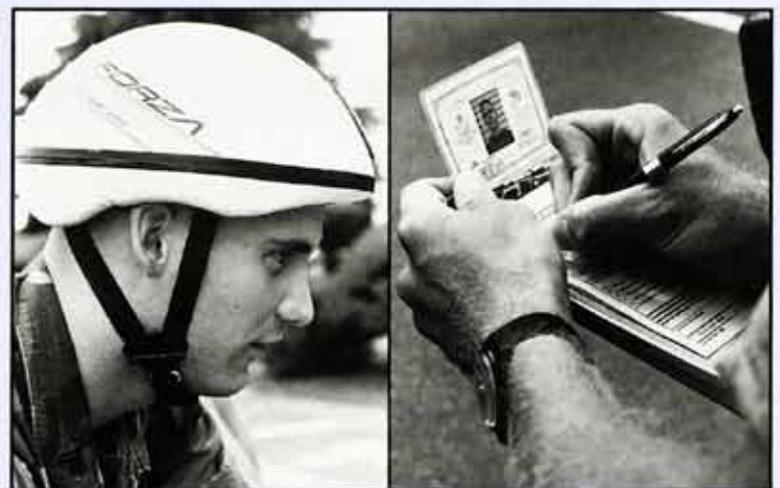
The results of the program have been good. It may possibly lead into the expansion of bicycle patrols on other Marine Corps installations. This is the first Military Police Bicycle Patrol the Marine Corps has in the Far East. After three months of operation, the Bicycle Patrol is going strong and steadily improving the safety of the air station.

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Story by Cpl. Marlon J. Martin
Photos by Stephanie Gilbert



LCpl. William Greenland and Cpl. Darrell Howard patrol the area.



While on patrol, Cpl. Darrell Howard, of PMO, knows that safety comes first, then the ticket writing.