

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 28 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



CLC-36 goes patrolling through the jungle | Pg. 6 & 7

CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Marines practice crossing a danger area in a training environment near Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji as part of Exercise Dragon Fire 2013, July 10. 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.

H&HS embraces Marine Corps' heritage at Iwo Jima

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron visited the historic shores of Iwo Jima July 24, 2013, for a period of military education on the role the island played in Marine Corps history and tradition.

Iwo Jima was renamed Iwo To by the Japanese government in 2007.

A group of more than 60 Marines, sailors and Seabees landed on a Japanese Self Defense Force airfield, then quickly fell into two columns and hiked approximately three miles to the base of Mount Suribachi.

"I feel honored to be able to be

there," said Lance Cpl. Miguel Ramirez, H&HS administrative specialist and Iwo Jima trip participant. "The heat and charging up the sand on the beach, there is no comparison to what the Marines had to face in 1945. They had fire raining down on them the moment they stepped out of the landing boats."

Though the sun beat down, and

temperatures rose to more than 100 degrees, the group made it to the top of Mt. Suribachi where Lt. Col. F. Lance Lewis, H&HS commanding officer, spoke to the group about the significance of the spot they were all standing.

"This is the closest thing there is to sacred ground for the

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Surge tests Bat's aircrew, maintenance

CPL. B. A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, the Bats, conducted their first surge operation for exercise Asan Fury here July 16, 2013.

"A surge is when a squadron tests its ability to sustain combat power continuously over a one to three day period," said Capt. James M. Cappabianca, F/A-18

pilot and schedules officer with VMFA(AW)-242. "This time, we are conducting a one day surge. This means that VMFA(AW)-242 will fly a large amount of sorties in a short amount of time. On a normal day, the Bats will fly on the average of 18 sorties. Today, we will fly 32 sorties starting from 9:50 a.m. to 10 p.m."

In summer, Guam has mostly sunny skies, but occasionally Mother Nature can add a few

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Asan Fury trains Hawks, Bats in air-to-air defense

CPL. B. A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 533, the Hawks, and 242, the Bats, are preparing for a fierce fight by utilizing air-to-air defense training throughout the skies of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The large flight space provided in the Marianas

Islands allows for multiple simulated aerial combat situations.

"Air-to-air defense training is important because it is setting our guys up for success against some type of active threat coming towards us, whether that be from threat missiles or enemy aircraft," said Capt. Matthew G. Tavernier, VMFA(AW)-242 F/A-18D pilot

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216. Call 253-5551.

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

'Spiritual Readiness'

LT. TRAVIS COFFEY
MALS-12 CHAPLAIN

It was Napoleon Bonaparte who once said, “There are only two forces in the world, the sword and the spirit. In the long run the sword will always be conquered by the spirit.”

This past month, we have been blessed to have some of our country’s finest leaders on deck at MCAS Iwakuni. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James Amos, recently visited and took the opportunity to share four of his top priorities. One of the top four priorities was keeping the faith with our Marines and sailors. Keeping the faith in the midst of very busy forward deployed duty station, far away from home, can be quite challenging. Many here at Iwakuni are unaccompanied and often isolated and alone. Many times, we find ourselves overwhelmed with tasks, appointments and assignments- that we can’t even see past this week for the next. In other words, sometimes we can’t see the amazing forest around us because we can’t see past the tree in front of us. The busy lifestyle our

missions require of us often drains us of energy. Many times we find ourselves trying to push forward on an empty tank. Friends, in order for us to keep the faith, we have to continually re-invest in ourselves by refueling our spiritual tanks - so that we can be ready for whatever awaits us.

If there is one thing that we know here at MCAS Iwakuni, it is the concept of “combat readiness.” But to be combat ready, another readiness concept is necessary - spiritual readiness. So, what is spiritual readiness? One mentor of spiritual readiness is Lt. Col. Ray Murray, who commanded the 5th Marines at the Chosin Reservoir. Reflecting on leadership during the withdrawal from this hellish death trap, he said, “I personally felt in a state of shock, the kind of shock one gets from some great personal tragedy, the sudden loss of someone close. My first fight was within myself. I had to rebuild that emptiness of spirit.”

The rebuilding that Lt. Col. Murray refers to is replenishing the spirit. He was referring to his own spiritual life and how important it was to keep that aspect of his life intact, in spite of the chaos surrounding him. That is what spiritual readiness means.

Spirituality begins when a person searches for religious faith. Then, spirituality should drive one toward a pursuit of displaying a life of integrity (my favorite leadership trait). Spiritual readiness also renders a Marine or sailor capable of coping with any crisis. It is having an inner self that is tough without being cold. It is an aspect of leadership that is as important as physical readiness or training. Spiritual readiness is the bedrock upon which the concepts of honor, courage and commitment are built.

The bottom line is that we can have the best equipment in the world, but if our people are not ready and able to operate it, our mission will fail. That is what Napoleon Bonaparte meant by the sword will always be conquered by the spirit. So, while you’re always preparing professionally to be ready and knocking out all the tasks on your daily list, remember to invest in your spiritual readiness too. Catch a chapel service, or observe a religious activity off base. Find ways to refuel your spirit so you’re ready for whatever lies ahead. Let us be ready to care for and serve others who are struggling and walking through a valley of life’s difficulties. Let us all strive to do whatever we can to keep the faith of our Marines and sailors.

Toko-Toko train allows children to see Japanese culture, terrain

PFC. D. A. WALTERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Staff members from Camp Adventure Youth Services Program (CAYSP), caring for 58 children from the School Age Care Center at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, participated in a Toko-Toko train ride hosted by CAYSP July 23, 2013.

Camp Adventure Youth Services Program is an educational organization run by the University of Northern Iowa that allows college students to travel abroad to military installations and spend time with children all over the world.

The Toko-Toko train ride was meant to be a fun experience for the children, and expose the children to a different side of Japanese culture.

“I think it’s very important for the kids to go out and see the different cultures and what it’s like off base,” said Danielle Miller, Camp Adventure project coordinator for Iwakuni Day Camp. “I think it enlightens the kids to see things they don’t normally get to see. It keeps their eyes open so they can understand and embrace cultures better.”

From the SAC Center, the children travelled by bus to the JR Misho Station. They carried their small-brown bag lunch, smiled and held hands in buddy pairs to board the Nishiki-gawa Seiryu-sen train.

Samantha Niles, Camp Adventure staff member, said she believes the train ride was one of the most unique Japanese cultural experiences the kids received.

“This is hugely important to their development,” said Niles. “They have both American culture

on base and Japanese culture off base, and on the train you have people speaking Japanese, so they are picking up on that a little bit. It’s a huge impact on them to go out and see different cultural aspects.”

The train took participants through the rural side of Iwakuni where they passed bamboo covered mountains, rice fields and closely followed the Nishiki River.

Upon arrival at the Nishiki-Cho train station, children walked a short distance to the Toko-Toko Train.

The Toko-Toko Train is not an ordinary train; it is a motorized train-like vehicle that pulls carts through the rural side of Iwakuni along the Nishiki River to show participants a closer look at countryside life and unique Japanese art.

As the train entered the cold, dark tunnels, a cool breeze became present and children began to chatter in excitement when they saw the dark-purple glow of black lights in the distance.

Under the black lights, various bright fluorescent designs of individually painted rocks on the arched ceiling and walls of the tunnel caused the children’s jaws to drop. They pointed their fingers as they murmured “ooh” and “aah.”

Upon completion of their Toko-Toko Train ride, children ate snacks at a local store where they interacted with locals and marveled at the presence of butterflies as they settled down and prepared for the travel back to station via bus.

To add to their cultural experience, children of Iwakuni Day Camp will travel to Mikawa Mu Valley, August 6, to see the Underground Kingdom, ancient stone carvings of Japanese ancestors that lie beneath the surface.

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Marine Corps,” said Lewis. “Imagine, if you can, storming that beach with tremendous amounts of heavy machine gun and mortar fire raining down on you from almost every direction. On top of that, you have all your gear and weapons. It was not an easy task for us today; it was definitely a tremendous feat for Marines back then.”

Once the group finished observing the monuments on top of Suribachi, they made the hike down to the beach to take home a bit of sand from the island as a souvenir and memento; an opportunity that very few servicemembers are afforded.

“The Marines, sailors and Seabees here were chosen by their shops for proving that they had earned the right to come,” said Lewis. “I wish we could bring more out here as often as possible, sadly, we just



Identification tags, name tapes and more, drape a stand atop Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima. The tokens are meant to symbolize the success of those who have traversed the mountain to leave behind something of themselves in remembrance of those who have fallen on the shores of the island during the invasion landing in 1945.

don’t have that capability.” Whether it is 1945, 2013 or the future, Iwo Jima will always hold a special and sacred place for Marines in their history and traditions.

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and safety officer. Training like this requires preparation to ensure everyone is working in sync during the mission.

“When we set up this training we usually have other aircraft that will simulate enemy aircraft, whether they are other

F-18’s or F-5’s, it could be any number of outside assets,” said Capt. Michael Golike, VMFA(AW)-533 F/A-18 pilot and airframes officer. “We will man our defense. When the enemy aircraft come, it’s our job to go out and intercept those guys.”

All this preparation and training, combined with the aircraft instrumentation, makes

these units a great asset for the Marine Corps’ overall AAD mission.

“During air-to-air defense training we usually have a defensive counter air patrol set up and we are trained as F/A-18 aircrew to do this type of mission,” said Golike. “The F/A-18 is the Marine Corps premier air-to-air defense fighter and

we have some pretty impressive capabilities with our radars and missiles. We can take down pretty much any air-to-air threat.”

Exercise Asan Fury allows the Bats and Hawks to expand on their usual AAD training.

“The nice thing about Guam is that there is a lot of airspace we can use here, said Golike.



Capt. Aaron F. Gajewski, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 F/A-18 pilot, departs from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 19, 2013. The Hawks aircrew works many hours to receive substantial training.

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challenges.

“Depending on where the storm is located, it may affect our ability to employ,” said Cappabianca. “For example, if there is a storm located over a target area, you may or may not be able to employ on that target because you cannot see it.”

Surges like these test the aircrews ability to deal with long days filled

with briefs and flights, but the greater challenge is keeping aircraft operational.

“The stresses of a surge mainly lie on maintenance,” said Cappabianca. “They work tireless hours in order to prepare the jets. Once the surge starts, they work all day and night fixing jets as they come back from each sortie in order to go out on the next mission. This is the critical breaking point of a squadron during surge

operations. If we cannot keep the jets healthy and ready to fly throughout the day, then the surge will not happen. The jets routinely come back from flights with broken parts due to the dynamic flying involved with the sorties flown.”

Cappabianca also mentioned the stress of maintaining jets during such mission-critical times like these.

“We just fix it and work all night if we have

to,” said Gunnery Sgt. Abelardo Dominguez, V M F A (A W) - 2 4 2 maintenance control chief. “Mission first, timely always.”

Conducting sorties serves a greater purpose than just testing the aircrew and maintenance’s ability to perform.

“This is vital in order to be able to instill fear in our enemies and let them know that we have the ability to bring a massive amount of combat power to the

fight and keep it coming,” said Cappabianca. “At the outset of any engagement, you will need to establish air superiority in order to support the troops on the deck. You will need to suppress any threats in the area near the friendly troops and sustain that presence.”

Surges like these don’t occur often, but the Bats ability to continually perform shows their ability to always be prepared to fight.



Prevention Works
No Zebras. No Excuses.

NO ZEBRAS

ILLUSTRATION BY RAY DILL

Servicemembers get different take on SAPR training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Servicemembers aboard station attended a unique training session on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response at the Sakura Theater here, July 22, 2013.

"No Zebras, No Excuses" is a live performance by the cast of No Zebras and More from, Central Michigan University, featuring scenarios designed to raise awareness and show different ways of recognizing, approaching and preventing sexual aggression.

"This program was originally started by our director to present to the incoming freshmen of Central Michigan University," said Braden Thompson, educator and cast member. "Eventually, it became more and more popular to the point where it started being brought in to other universities."

Thompson explained all eight members of the group are alumni from CMU with years of experience with an advocacy program called Sexual Aggression Prevention Advocates.

According to their biographies on nozebrasandmore.com, the cast and crew have a total of 40 years of experience in sexual aggression training.

While most SAPR training revolves around what servicemembers should not be doing and reporting procedures, "No Zebras, No Excuses" has a different approach to addressing sexual assault.

"One of the main purposes is to engage bystanders," said Christie Martin, educator and cast member. "The theme of our training is taken from zebras in the wild: when they see one

of them being attacked, they'll stand by and don't intervene."

For some servicemembers, the training was more emotional than the traditional way of teaching.

"In the past, we've gotten a lot of training and lectures," said Cpl. Estephania De León, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administration specialist. "The reason I liked this training so much is because it was very real. (The cast members) experienced these scenarios, and for them to relive it every time they give a brief is admirable."

Some scenarios presented examples of sexual assault, aggression and even the subject of an abusive relationship.

"The abuse topic was a new one for me," said De León. "I heard a lot of the Marines saying, 'I thought this was about sexual assault prevention,' but abuse does happen with sexual assault."

Every type of training has a certain mission to fulfill. For the cast of No Zebras and More, their mission was to exploit the bystander mentality and show how people must stand up, quit being bystanders, and help keep others around them safe.

"The longer we have been doing this, the more people have seen it before," said Ashley Smith, educator and cast member. "I don't know how many times I've had someone come up and say, 'I saw this before, and because I had this training, I wasn't a zebra.'"

In their program, the cast continued to say, "Bad people are going to do bad things." When someone stands by and lets those bad things happen, maybe it's a good idea to intervene. So the question is, "What will you do?"



Christie Martin, left, and Richard Bronson, No Zebras and More educators and cast members, perform a skit depicting stalking during their show "No Zebras, No Excuses" held at the Sakura Theater at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 22, 2013. The cast members covered several scenarios that relate to sexual aggression including stalking, abusive relationships and the "nice guy" act.

ORDNANCE TRAINS WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVES DURING ASAN FURY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. B. A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533, the Hawks, trained with high explosives during Exercise Asan Fury.

Guam's large air ranges are larger than Iwakuni's and gives VMFA(AW)-533 ample space to drop ordnance.

The Hawks started their high explosive training July 15, 2013, and are scheduled to conclude the training July 26.

"Everything has been going well," said Sgt. Matthew Carroll, a VMFA(AW)-533 aviation ordnance technician. "Usually, you start a little slow, gain momentum and teach your new guys who haven't had the time to work with the high explosives yet. You teach them the routines and how to handle it. From there, everything just builds up until you get to a good pace."

The Hawks good pace means working long days and rarely getting an opportunity for a break.

"The days are long and you're super exhausted after work, but I like it because it makes time go by a lot faster," said Cpl. Ashley Russell, a VMFA(AW)-533 aviation ordnance technician.

Russell also said that since the high explosive training started, she is always moving and before she realizes it, it's time for night crew to take over.

Guam is considered a tropical environment, which poses challenges for the Marines who

work mostly on the flight line.

"You get to load at a different climate which is good training for the Marines," said Carroll. "It teaches them to adapt and overcome. You have to maintain hydration. It's an all-day go, go, go, and you really don't get to stop for about 12 hours."

Hot weather hasn't been the only obstacle the Hawks have faced during Asan Fury.

"We're not on a Marine Corps installation, so getting parts and supply has been a little more difficult," said Carroll. "We have to try to work through our gripes and ensure that when we order a part, it is the exact part we need so that we're not wasting our time and supplies time."

Even with the presented challenge for VMFA(AW)-533 ordnance, the Marine Corps mentality of training for combat has really paid off.

"We always follow the same safety precautions, whether it's an inert or high explosive," said Carroll. "Sometimes they feel intimidated, but they learn that it's no different from what we normally do."

Overcoming these challenges shows the Hawks ability to overcome when put in unfamiliar situations.

"I'm definitely proud of my Marines, they are giving it their all," said Carroll. "They're getting all the good training and ensuring that the pilots get all the good training they need in order to accomplish their mission."

Russell added she was impressed at how well the Marines are handling working long hours and adapting to a new environment.



Lance Cpl. Austin McFann, Lance Cpl. David Langot and Lance Cpl. Christopher Fandrey, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 aviation ordnance technicians, prepare an aircraft to receive high explosive ordnance at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 16, 2013. The Hawks are taking full advantage of Guam's large air ranges.



Lance Cpl. Austin McFann, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 aviation ordnance technician, prepares an aircraft to receive high explosive ordnance at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 16, 2013. The Hawks also took advantage of their liberty opportunities by snorkeling at the beach.

DRAGON FIRE 2013

Servicemembers
conduct patrolling
exercises in Fuji

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan — Servicemembers with Combat Logistics Company 36 carried out patrols and practiced buddy rush techniques as part of an Exercise Dragon Fire 2013 training evolution at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, July 11.

“When we started patrolling, it was a bit bunched and clustered up, but now we’re starting to move as a team: we’re using hand-and-arm signals like we’re supposed to,” said Master Sgt. Matt Hughes, CLC-36 operations chief. “I think the Marines are progressing really well, like I knew they would. They might not take it so serious back in the rear when it’s PowerPoint, but I think we all have a warrior’s spirit inside of us. As the Marines progress throughout the training, you see them form a more cohesive unit. I would take them to combat anywhere for sure. I know from personal experience that it doesn’t matter; combat camera, workers at the mess hall, or someone programming computers, all Marines are warriors.”

The patrolling exercise also gave noncommissioned officers an opportunity to enforce the importance of their position and small-unit leadership.

“I explain what the movements are and then let the corporals lead them,” said Sgt. Emily Gavidia, an administration noncommissioned officer in charge with CLC-36 and platoon sergeant. “I provide guidance, but give the reins to the corporals to decide what’s going on and make sure everything goes as planned, so as a platoon, when we say move, they move and know where to go without any errors.”

Having participated in Dragon Fire the previous year as a squad leader, Gavidia gave further insight into the responsibilities of being a Marine NCO.

“Now, being a platoon sergeant, I know how much leadership I can really enforce on my squad leaders and see how much influence they

This is where we have to be disciplined. Now is the time to instill discipline for it to be tested in combat. Just like you forge steel and you make it sharp, we’re making the Marines sharp here so they can take that steel, take that sword and take it to the enemy.

Master Sgt. Matt Hughes, *Combat Logistics Company 36 operations chief*

have on the junior Marines,” said Gavidia. “The junior Marines are going to do everything you tell them as long as you’re there with them. If you’re not there, then they’re just going to be like, ‘ah, whatever.’ It’s that motivation from when they see their higher ups doing everything with them; they’re only going to love it and appreciate it that much more.”

Servicemembers spent countless hours practicing patrolling formations and techniques while traversing dense forest areas, fine-tuning crossing over danger areas, such as open roads and even finding opportunities to ambush other squads.

“Camp Fuji provides an excellent training opportunity,” said Hughes. “We’re combat logistics, we’re combat arms; we can get called on to be a provisional rifle platoon at any time. I’m a maintenance chief by trade, but there’s several times in my experience where I’ve done stuff like that. I’m really passionate about training the Marines because although they’re supply personnel, mechanics or something like that, they’re still basic riflemen. I think that Marines, as a whole, sometimes lose sight of what our basic job is and our basic job is to locate, close with and destroy the enemy.”

While Marines may have been patrolling in a semi-jungle environment, advice received on maintaining a vigilant and keen eye is applicable to many other aspects of life.

“As far as the patrolling goes, from the beginning of the day until now, it’s important to be cautious and pay attention to your

surroundings,” said Gavidia. “You never know what’s in front, behind or near you. With the environment we’re in now, you never know what’s going to happen. However, whether we’re in garrison or not, attention to detail makes a difference. Attention to detail on a Humvee, on a 7-ton, on a piece of paper, attention to detail is paramount.”

During and after patrols, senior leaders were present to offer their wisdom and experience.

“We never know what kind of environment we’re going to be in, so you can’t get away from boots on the ground,” said Hughes. “Training is good because once you go outside enemy lines in combat,

there is no more training, it’s that serious. It’s about life or death. This is where we work all the bugs out, and these Marines are working the bugs out.”

Given that personnel other than those in the infantry field don’t normally find regular opportunities to practice basic combat skills such as patrolling and buddy rushing, the time CLC-36 Marines are afforded during Dragon Fire is vital to maintain combat readiness.

“Discipline is forged in garrison and tested in combat,” said Hughes. “This is where we have to be disciplined. Now is the time to instill discipline for it to be tested in combat. Just like you forge steel and you make it sharp, we’re making the Marines sharp here so they can take that steel, take that sword and take it to the enemy. Sometimes we get caught up being behind the computer, I’m guilty of it myself. You can have all the modern technology in the world, but like I said, it does nothing compared to boots on the ground. We can have the best satellites in the world, but boots on the ground; that human intel, that human interaction and establishing atmospherics; a computer can’t tell you that, that’s why we patrol.”



Cpl. Jason Ingram, a supply administration and operations clerk with Combat Logistics Company 36, waits in an ambush position in a training environment at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013 July 10. 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.



Master Sgt. Matt Hughes, operations chief for Combat Logistics Company 36, explains how to observe a baseline in nature to Pfc. Angelica Purdy, a material issue point clerk with CLC-36, during a patrolling exercise at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji July 10, during 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.



Marines practice patrolling techniques in a training environment at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji as part of Exercise Dragon Fire 2013 July 10. 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.



Servicemembers with Combat Logistics Company 36 step out on a patrol at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013 July 10. 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.



Pfc. Angelica Purdy, a material issue point clerk with Combat Logistics Company 36, waits in an ambush position in a training environment at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji during Exercise Dragon Fire 2013 July 10.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (HMM-262) off-load 12 MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft at the port facility at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 30. The aircraft arrived by commercial cargo ship, before being flown to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan, as part of HMM-262. The 12 aircraft will be inspected, and prepared for flight operations to Okinawa at the beginning of August completing the one-to-one CH-46E replacement on Okinawa. The MV-22 is a highly-capable aircraft with an excellent operational safety record. The aircraft combines the vertical capability of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing aircraft that can fly twice as fast, carry three times as much, and fly four times the range of the older, CH-46E. Its capabilities will significantly benefit the U.S.-Japan alliance, strengthen our ability to provide for the defense of Japan and an increased ability to perform humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

MV-22 Osprey squadron arrives at Iwakuni

CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 Marines off-loaded 12 MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, from a commercial cargo ship July 30, 2013.

The aircraft are headed to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan, as part of HMM-262. They will join Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, which arrived July 2012.

"We're here for the delivery of the MV-22 Osprey aircraft. These Ospreys are a one-for-one swap with our aging CH-46 helicopters," said Lt. Col. Larry Brown, HMM-262 commanding officer. "In one month, the squadron will re-designate as a VMM, or tiltrotor squadron. The tiltrotor combines the flexibility of a traditional helicopter with the speed and the range of a fixed-wing aircraft. The Osprey can fly twice as fast, two and a half times as high, can carry three times the cargo and has four times the range of the helicopters we are replacing. Simply put, the Osprey is the safest and most reliable aircraft I have flown and will enhance the U.S.-Japan Alliance."

At MCAS Futenma, the Marine Corps will modernize its fleet with the tiltrotor aircraft. The arrival of this aircraft will complete the CH-46E replacement on Okinawa.

MCAS Iwakuni features both an airfield

and a port facility, making it a safe and operationally feasible location to off-load aircraft.

According to III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Installations Pacific consolidated Public Affairs Office the United States Government made official notification to the Government of Japan April 29, 2013, regarding the planned introduction and basing of the 2nd squadron of MV-22 Osprey aircraft in Japan.

In responses to the interest of Japanese Media, and for benefit of the local community, III MEF/MCIPAC consolidated Public Affairs Office and MCAS Iwakuni Public Affairs Office provided an opportunity for media coverage of the MV-22 off-load process aboard the station.

"I think the opportunity to observe the off-load myself and for the event to be open to the press is a very positive point to acknowledge at this time," said Yoshihiko Fukuda, Iwakuni city mayor. "Please, I'd like to clear up any misunderstanding about my presence here to watch the off-load. It does not represent my stance about the Osprey coming here, nor am I trying to influence offload operations. I am here to get an objective view, get the opportunity to get information on site and be aware of what's going on here. At this point, as a mayor who is responsible for securing the safety of Iwakuni citizens, I do not see any issues here that should impact civilian life in the community of Iwakuni."

The Osprey's capabilities will significantly strengthen the Marine Corps' ability to provide for the defense of Japan, perform humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and fulfill other Alliance roles.

"With the enhanced, speed, range, altitude and cargo capacity, we'll be able to support the Asia Pacific region in an enhanced and timelier manner," said Brown.

The Osprey has operated in multiple locations and in diverse environments around the world, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Thailand, Australia, Guam, the Republic of the Philippines and others.

Due to their unique capabilities, MV-22 Ospreys can deploy regionally, reducing the overall amount of time and training on Okinawa.

The Osprey is generally thought to be quieter, a result of its increased operating altitude off-Okinawa training, as compared to the CH-46E.

According to III MEF, the MV-22 has an excellent operational safety record and ranks among the safest of all U.S. military aircraft. The deployment of the Osprey strengthens the U.S.'s ability to provide defense for Japan and provides an increased ability to respond to disasters.

The MV-22 Osprey is a U.S.-Japan alliance asset, and for the past year the aircraft's capabilities have been demonstrated by the Marines of VMM-265, operating Osprey both on and off Okinawa.

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.com> 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.

Cub Scout Day Camp

August 16-18, 2013, marks the 2013 Cub Scout Day Camp. Check in begins at 7:30 a.m. at Penny Lake and the camp lasts from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scouts will accomplish requirements toward belt loops, electives and rank badges. Day Camp offers programs that draw directly from the Cub Scout advancement requirements book. The theme of the day camp is, "Space is the place!" Events include archery, BB shooting, special presentations and more. For more information, email IwakuniPack77@gmail.com. Volunteers are also needed.

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 Assistant

US Navy currently seeks one Dental Assistant at 3d Dental Battalion at U.S. Naval Dental Center, Iwakuni. Minimum requirements include a Red Cross Volunteer certificate, American Dental Association graduate certificate, must have excellent healthcare administrative and outstanding patient care skill, current Basic Life Support, three letters of recommendation. 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

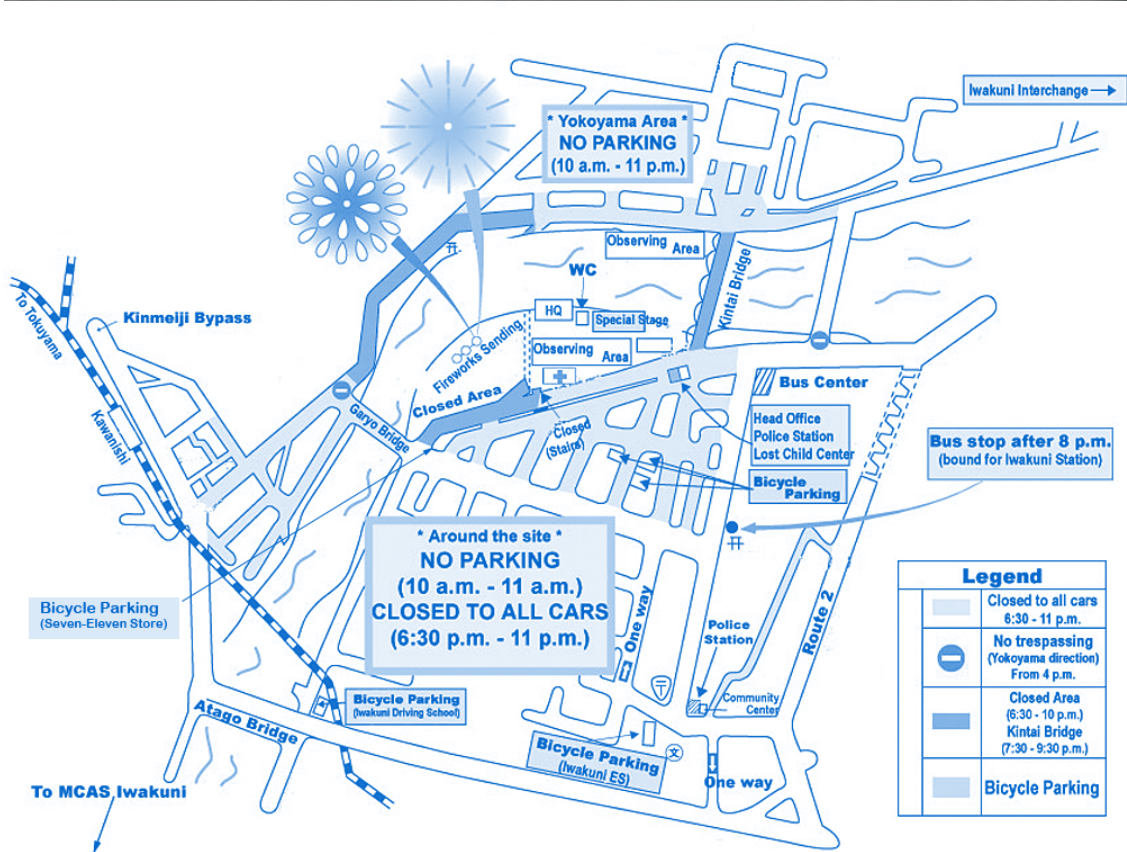
Engineering Support Personnel, Inc. is seeking qualified simulators/electronics/IT technicians for its WESTPAC COMS program. Applicants are required to have a minimum of four years electronics maintenance

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@jrusell.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. You may submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. 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.

46th Nishikigawa River Festival



Event opens at 9 a.m. Aug. 3, 2013. Fireworks begin at 8 p.m.

Traffic restrictions are in effect Saturday near the Kintai area to make way for the 46th Nishikigawa Water Festival. There will be no parking near the fireworks launching area from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and the area is closed to all traffic from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Designated bicycle parking spaces are available at Iwakuni Driving School (English sign at entrance), Iwakuni Elementary School, three locations at Iwakuni 1-Chome and the Seven-Eleven Kintai-kyo shop. No swimming or rafting is allowed at designated areas.

The traffic restriction map

Shuttle buses are available between JR Iwakuni Station and the Kintai Bridge (approximately 20 minutes), and from Marifu Elementary School to the bridge (approximately 15 minutes).

Parking is available at Marifu Elementary School.

Bus schedule

- Outbound to Kintai Bridge: JR Iwakuni Station (bus stop No. 2), first departure 5 p.m.
- Marifu Elementary School, first departure 4:30 p.m.
- Inbound to JR Iwakuni Station (via Marifu Elementary School): Kintai Bridge, last departure 10 p.m.
- Fare (one-way):
- JR Iwakuni Station – Kintai Bridge 240 yen for adult, 120 yen for elementary school students or younger
- Marifu Elementary School – Kintai Bridge 210 yen for adult, 110 yen for elementary school students or younger
- ** Shuttle buses will depart once full. Times may fluctuate due to gridlock, and unforeseen events.
- **In the event of bad weather the festival will be postponed until August 31.

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
2nd Saturday	7:30 a.m. Men's Discipleship
1st and 3rd Saturday	10 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist

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

*FLOW and Children's Church are currently on summer break.

OUT AND ABOUT : Japan

HAGI SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Hagi Summer Festival parade takes place in Hagi city, Yamaguchi pref. Floats will be carried from Sumiyoshi shrine and taken around town. The festival is a three-day event. Day one includes a firework demonstration out by Hagi-port. The second day, a Yoisho Yoisho Dance will be held at Yoshidacho festival square. The third and final day consists of a Ofuna song presentation at Yoshidacho.

YAMAGUCHI TANABATA CHOCHIN FESTIVAL

More than 100,000 paper lanterns (chochin) light the streets of Yamaguchi city during the Yamaguchi Tanabata Chochin Festival, which is said to have been a part of Japanese tradition since the 15th century. Having undergone several changes throughout Japan's different eras, it wasn't until 1979 that the festival received its current name and date. The festival is held August 6th and 7th. Events for the festival include parading lanterns around local shrines, dancing, music celebrations and more. For more information, visit y-chouchin.jp.

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, August 2, 2013 1 p.m. Beverly Hills Chihuahua (2008) (PG) 7 p.m. The Heat (R) 10 p.m. White House Down (PG-13)	Monday, August 5, 2013 1 p.m. Peter Pan (1953) (G) 7 P.M. White House Down (PG-13)
Saturday, August 3, 2013 4 p.m. Monsters University (G) 7 p.m. This is the End (R)	Tuesday, August 6, 2013 Theater closed
Sunday, August 4, 2013 4 p.m. Monster's University (G) 7 p.m. World War Z (PG-13)	Wednesday, August 7, 2013 Theater closed
	Thursday, August 8, 2013 1 p.m. Elf (2003) (PG) 7 P.M. The Heat (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura often for updates, or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.

General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$3/ Ages 6-11 are \$1.50/ Children 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



The yukata today came from noblemen in the Heian era (794-1194) who would wear “yukatabira” to steam baths to prevent direct contact of the steam on their skin. Sometime in the Heian era, the yakatabira were worn by people on their way home from public baths and the name was soon shortened to yukata. The yukata is the summer version of the kimono and is worn during hot and humid months because of its light cotton material and how it fits the body, similar to a bath robe. On the traditional yukata, the colorful, indigo blue designs are intended to make the wearer feel cooler

psychologically, with designs that depict the summer season: birds, fireworks, flowers, ocean waves and fans. When a yukata is worn, it is important to dress one's self appropriately. Start by wrapping the right side over the body, then overlap with the left side and tie with a belt. Right side over left is only used to dress a body for burial. Zori, straw shoes, or geta, wooden shoes, are the appropriate shoes to be worn with a yukata. The price for a yukata ranges from 8,000 to 25,000 yen, and depends on the way the material was weaved and designs on the material.



James Mauk, goalie for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, prepares to block a ball during a practice game at Penny Lake Field for the upcoming Intramural Soccer Season at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 25, 2013.

STATION RESIDENTS PRACTICE 'BENDING IT LIKE BECKHAM' DURING INTRAMURAL SOCCER



Auston Scott, a player with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, throws a ball back into play during a practice game at Penny Lake Field for the upcoming Intramural Soccer Season at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 25, 2013.

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents spent time practicing at Penny Lake Field for the Intramural Soccer Season beginning July 29, 2013. For some, training lasted for months, but for others, their practice time hasn't lasted long. “My team has a little bit of experience, and we haven't had much time to practice together,” said Kevin Petrus, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 air frame mechanic. According to Jason Knight, Marine Corps Community Services Intramural Sports coordinator, the season is open to all Status of Forces Agreement and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force personnel ages 16 and older. “Teams must be comprised of at least six players in order to play, but can have no more than 15 players to a team,” said Knight. “In addition to that, all servicemembers have to form teams by their respective commands.” Although teams need to be separated by command group, participants have been practicing with mixed teams. While the teams practiced with future opponents, players stayed focused on perfecting their soccer skills. “We've been practicing on passing, throwing the ball from out-of-bounds and just getting to the net,” said Petrus. “More importantly, we've been practicing teamwork. Last year, we made it to the quarterfinals. This year, we plan on making it all the way.” With the season starting July 29, time is short for athletes to prepare for upcoming games. “I'm expecting a lot of interesting players, both American and Japanese, giving their all,” said Knight. “I can't wait and see who will win this year.” For more information on game times and dates, call Intramural Sports at 253-3067.



Kevin Petrus, a player with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, kicks the ball back into play during a practice game at Penny Lake Field for the upcoming Intramural Soccer Season at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, July 25, 2013.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the August 9, 1985, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on 17 Marines from the station's Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting unit participating in a sumo wrestling tournament that took place as part of the first Kawashimo Festival.

Sumo Leathernecks

Air Station Marines wrestle with pride

by SSgt C.L. Biggio



Terry Brissett, of the CFR Section, faces off against a Japanese opponent during a sumo wrestling match held recently. Seventeen Marines from Crash, Fire and Rescue Section participated in the event.

The Marines strode to the ring, slightly self-conscious in their "mawashi," the Japanese loin cloth which is the traditional uniform of the sumo wrestler.

Their Japanese opponents were already waiting--flexing their muscles, squatting and grunting, moving low to the ground, steady as a rock, on legs that in some cases seemed as thick as telephone poles.

The lean, mean devil dogs, all members of the Station Crash Crew, made up in motivation and determination what they lacked in pounds per square inch.

The action in the ring was part of the first Kawashimo Festival sponsored by the Kawashimo Regional Social Welfare Council, in cooperation with the Kawashimo Regional Commercial and Industrial Association.

"The hardest part was getting them into the mawashi," laughed CWO-2 R.F. Petrowski, Crash Crew OIC, who urged his Marines to participate in the event.

Although none of them had ever sumo wrestled before, the Crash Crew Marines jumped at the chance to meet the challenge.

"We had more volunteers than

we needed," commented Paul Hays, one of the wrestlers.

The Marines hadn't been told that they'd be wearing the mawashi. "We were a little hesitant about wearing them," Hays said, "but we were fired-up about the competition."

Hayes was one of the few Marines with wrestling experience, but the sumo wrestling rules were strange to all of them.

Terry Brissett, another Marine with grappling experience,

was the first leatherneck to emerge victorious. Brissett defeated three successive opponents in the first round of competition. One of his opponents was a local high school sumo wrestling champion.

Other Marines taking part in the match included David Hays, Anthony Powe, Charles Proffitt, Brian Monk, Edwin Rodriguez, Marshall Lewis, Brian Marti-nette, Jeffery Roseman, Martin Thomas, Joe Munguia, Sean Murray, Brian Scott, Alan Elliott, Marvin Walton, and Bain Knobel.

The experience was a physical one, even for Marines in good shape.

"I felt like I'd been flattened and then stretched back to my normal shape," Hays laughed.

Muscles were sore and there were aching bodies with bruises and scratches at Crash Crew the next day, but the pain was worth it for the leatherneck sumo wrestlers.

"I don't know a one that wouldn't jump at the chance to do it again next week," Hays exclaimed.

FF



Terry Brissett lifts his opponent out of the ring and scores a win during the sumo wrestling competition, as other Marines from the Crash, Fire and Rescue Section cheer him on.