



the KINTAI
shimbun

Campaign seeks pledges

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Out the Gate: Osaka awaits

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Bowling season gets rolling

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

These stories and more...

Oct. 12, 2007

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Commanding Officer, MCAS Iwakuni

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2007 Beerfest brews new ideas for Iwakuni beer enthusiasts

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Staff Sgt. Steven M. Larrabee, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron small arms technician and native of Gibsonton, Fla., demonstrates the proper assembly of a M249 Light Machine Gun at the station armory Oct. 11.

Need to get out? Osaka adventure only a train ride away

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Iwakuni Friendship League hosts 3rd season match, spares members a trip

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Campaign kickoff seeks to aid those at home, around the globe

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun Staff

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas recently kicked off its annual pledge drive for Pacific Command service members and Department of Defense civilians, and once again station residents are digging deep to support the charitable organizations of their choice.

From Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, CFC representatives will be making their rounds collecting pledge cards and educating residents on how they can support this year's theme and "Make a World of Difference."

"Basically the goal isn't how much we make, but to have personal, 100 percent contact with everybody," said Staff Sgt. Brian G. Kendrick, CFC-O assistant community area project officer and native of Waverly, Va. "If you sit down with someone and get their full attention, they're more apt to understand why we're doing this."

Service members and DoD civilians here can contribute to their choice of thousands of screened philanthropic organizations in

minutes by filling out a CFC-O pledge card. Cash donations and one-year, \$1-minimum paycheck allotments are accepted. There is no limit on a person's number of charities nor is there a cap on donation amounts.

"Everybody gives for different reasons, and there's a charity out there for every person," Kendrick said. "If you give \$5 out of each paycheck ... it's doing something to help a less fortunate person."

According to their Web site www.cfc-overseas.org, last year's campaign raised \$572,000 for Family Support and Youth Programs. FSYP is one way for contributors to add to the quality of life for overseas military communities by donating money back to their installation or area of origin.

"When someone here gives to the program, that money comes right back here to Iwakuni to help the community," said Kendrick.

Many here are longtime supporters of the campaign, and would urge others to make the small sacrifice and chip in to help such a worthy cause.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Station Commanding Officer Col. Michael A. O'Halloran signs the first pledge on the opening day of the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas fund drive Oct. 1.

"I've donated every year I've been in the Marine Corps," said Sgt. David W. Morse, Provost Marshal's Office accident investigator and Calhoun, Ga., native. "I'd recommend it because you never know if one day you'll be in need. Plus, it's just what Marines do," he added.

For more information on making a donation, contact your unit or section CFC-O representative.

2007 Beerfest brews new ideas for Iwakuni beer enthusiasts

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun Staff

Club Iwakuni opened its door to approximately 290 barley connoisseurs during the 2007 Iwakuni Beer Festival and seminar Saturday.

The festival included an hour seminar that educated the participants in the ways of fermentation and an afternoon beer tasting that provided an opportunity for Iwakuni members to experience flavors of beer around the world.

“We have nearly 100 types of beer to be tasted and dozens of different recipes by our chefs,” said Kazuma Hayashi, Marine Corps Community Services consumer buyer and Iwakuni native.

The festival kicked off with an introduction of the participating brewing companies and their representatives followed by an educational seminar regarding beer’s unique fermentation process.

“This presentation is teaching us quite a bit of useful knowledge,” said Lance Cpl. Max C. Ballentine, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administrative clerk and Cincinnati native. “It is giving pointers on which types of beer cooks well with different meats and which serves well as a refreshment.”

Aside from being served as refreshment, beer is used to pre-



Chefs from Club Iwakuni prepare various dishes using beer to add smoothness and a slightly bitter taste for participants of the 2007 Iwakuni Beer Festival at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Oct. 6.

pare various dishes including soups, fish and stews, adding smoothness and slight bitterness to the flavor, according to a handout given at the seminar. Certain recipes were cooked

by Club Iwakuni chefs during the presentation and served to festival participants.

SEE BEER ON PAGE 4



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Chef Phillip Kitzko adds an icy blade to the hands of his sculpted sea creature on display at the 2007 Iwakuni Beer Festival at Club Iwakuni. Kitzko single-handedly crafted the ice sculptures in his walk-in freezer, starting nearly four weeks before the festival took place Oct. 6.

BEER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

“I would have never guessed that so many things could go well with beer,” said Ballentine. “I’m interested now to mix and match with the different types of imported beers.”

Following the seminar, the participants were invited toward the back of the dining room and introduced to the different beers available for tasting. Within minutes, participants were surrounding displays from countries including Australia, Belgium and Germany.

“People are unaware what types of beers are available to them around the world,” said Hayashi. “If a certain German beer was in popular demand, you could soon find it at the exchange.”

The festival gave brewing companies an opportunity to introduce new products to Iwakuni members. Participants were able to offer an honest opinion on what beers were more enjoyable than others, depending on their specific tastes.

“I’m interested in trying more dark beers,” said Ballentine. “I learned some interesting facts today that I will have to take home with me.” The yearly festival brings both familiar and never-before-seen brews to Iwakuni members for entertainment and educational purposes.

“It’s a well known fact that Marines and Sailors love to drink beer,” said Liz M. Montaovo, Miller Lite sponsor and native of Puerto Rico. “We put this festival together for them. Hopefully, everyone can walk away with newfound knowledge and maybe added beer adoration.”



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Lance Cpl. Michael A. Martin, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 communication engineer and Amity, Ore., native, poses next to two Budweiser representatives during the 2007 Iwakuni Beer Festival at Club Iwakuni Oct. 6.

Need to get out? Osaka adventure only a train ride away

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun Staff

One thing making my time here in Japan so enjoyable is the sense of adventure, the opportunity to get on a train with little more than a backpack and some yen and discover a unique new world at every stop. I believe while living overseas it is a privilege to absorb as much of Japan's exotic beauty as possible, and I'm always on the lookout for a new restaurant, beach, metropolis or festival. With the recent four-day weekend I decided to venture out a little further than usual and take in the sights and sounds of one highly-recommended location, Japan's second-largest city: Osaka.

My mother will be the first to tell you I'm impulsive and rarely plan things out before launching into one of my episodes of wanderlust. If your luck is anything like mine you may get off the Shinkansen realizing you've arrived on one of the busiest weekends of the year and will be unable to find accommodations, so it's definitely advisable to make hotel reservations before departing. Also, if traveling with family I would recommend mapping out your itinerary through

the Information, Tours and Travel Office. At 7,800 square kilometers, metropolitan Osaka offers an almost overwhelming array of sights and facilities to entertain visitors of all ages. By doing a little homework, you'll easily be able to see popular landmarks such as the Osaka Castle, the Floating Garden Observatory, the Shitennoji Temple and the Tennoji Zoo with ample time to stroll the streets and find your own personal gems.

My liberty buddy and I arrived at the Osaka Shin station Friday evening, checked into our room, and after dinner and drinks decided to call it a relatively early evening. Armed only with a map and a few cups of coffee, we hit the streets the next morning determined to make some new friends and dig up some local culture.

We soon stumbled upon what seemed to be a good way to get a feel for our surroundings: the Naniwa Tanken Cruise. During a one-and-a-half hour tour around the city on the Dotombori River, we were able to observe from our open-roofed vessel many points of interest to later visit. Though our guide spoke no English, the beautiful view of the bridges, buildings and people on a sunny fall

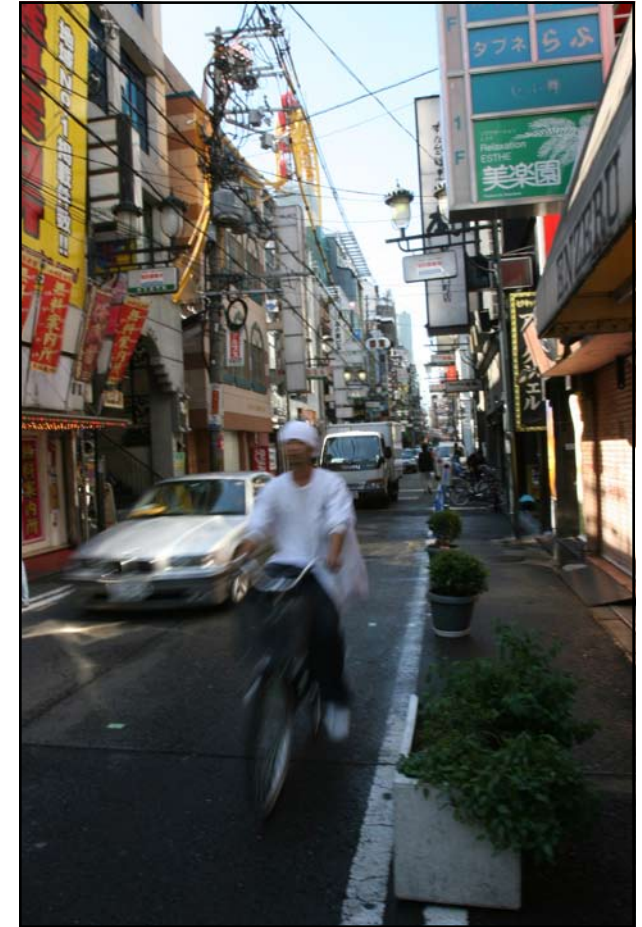
morning was well worth the 2,500 yen fee.

The rest of our afternoon was spent wandering down the Shinsaibashi and Tenjimbashi-Suji roofed shopping streets. The streets' endless variety of stores ranges from small "mom-and-pop" joints to giant high rise malls, and with a combined distance of over three kilometers of tightly-packed commerce, avid shoppers could spend an entire weekend in the area alone.

The morning's meandering had left us tired and hungry, so after a quick nap we were off again in search of a particular Indian restaurant we had seen on the boat tour. Our noses led us to Bombay, a small but elegant establishment serving delicious curry and nan bread at a very affordable price – think Ganesh goodness at CoCo's cost.

It was beginning to get late, which meant our quest for some of the purportedly best nightlife in Japan was on. Several English-speaking Osaka visitors recommended the popular club Sam and Dave's, and soon we found ourselves amidst the sweaty, dancing mob tightly packing the underground nightspot.

SEE OSAKA ON PAGE 6



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

The hustle and bustle of Japan's second-largest city, Osaka, never seems to end. At all hours of the day or night residents and tourists can be seen enjoying Osaka's lively culture.

OSAKA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

For me, this would be the low point of the weekend. I paid a hefty cover, had to fight my way through pushy lines at the bar and restroom, and couldn't seem to find a pretty lady with whom to cut a rug ... Okay, maybe I can attribute the last one to the fact that I look like an epileptic on the dance floor and still get freaked out when talking to girls.

Despite a somewhat disappointing night at Sam and Dave's, we had high hopes for Sunday. We spent the morning getting lost trying to find the Osaka Modern Art Museum but luckily came across another (free) Osakan jewel: Mido-Suji Avenue. Often referred to as the "Champs-Elyse of the Orient," it was impossible not to be awestruck at the dichotomy of a metropolitan street lined in yellow-leaved ginkgo trees. In the fall the changing leaves make it an especially nice place to sip a cup of coffee while enjoying the scenery.

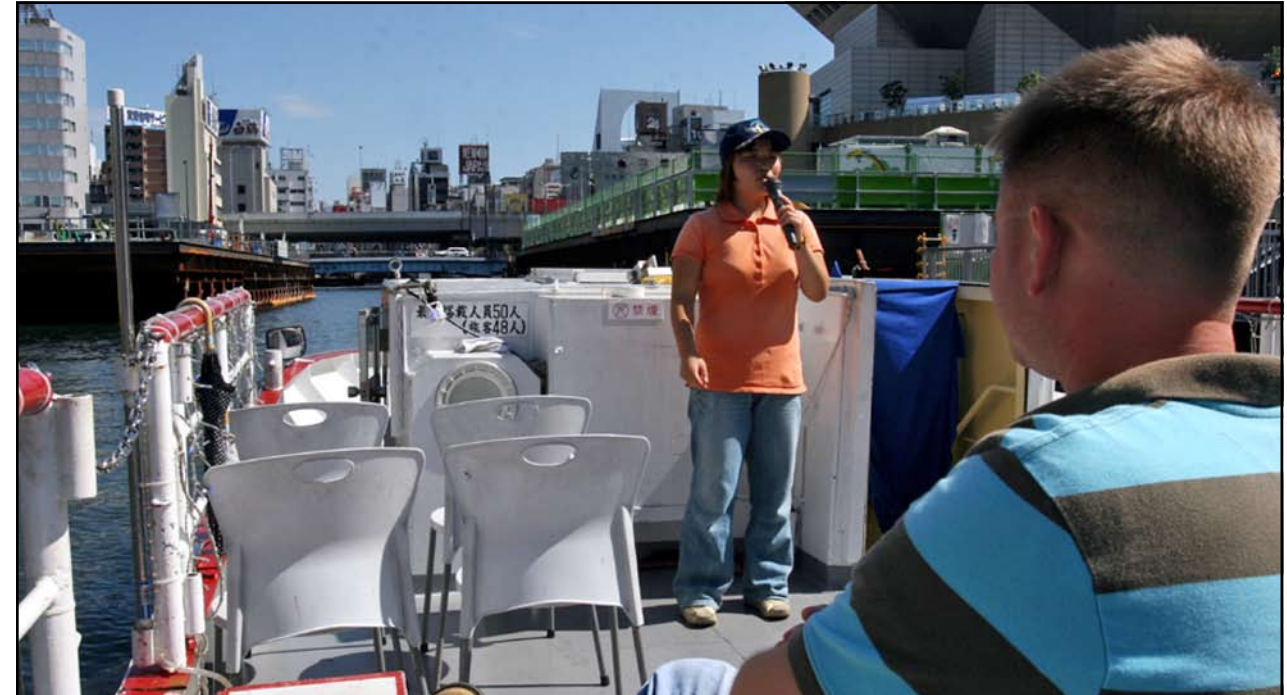
That evening we enjoyed the finest cuisine and drink of the weekend. Dinner at Gotti, an underground Italian bistro, was an incredible combination of gourmet flavor and presentation with elaborate dishes that looked just as good as they tasted. Though the menu was only in Japanese, Gotti's friendly staff was happy to explain each

course and make recommendations on the house specialties.

Afterwards our waitress directed us to Ox Bar, a small, relaxed bar specializing in several varieties of homemade vodka and shochu. Lee, the bartender and owner, was happy to explain which spirit best complemented each cocktail and even played musical requests from his massive vinyl record collection. We sipped Moscow Mules mixed with homemade ginger vodka, listened to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and chatted with some newfound friends – how could the night get any better?

Although I was at first hesitant to go, it was our late-night visit to the underground techno club Chameleon that put the perfect close on our weekend. Given the previous night's less-than-outstanding time at Sam and Dave's, I was wary of paying 3,000 yen to get into another loud, crowded basement I probably wouldn't enjoy. This, however, was surprisingly not the case.

Entering Chameleon, I was immediately impressed with the spacious dance floor and mellow vibe. A friendly wait staff served reasonably-priced drinks, and there was ample space to sit or hang out in the cozy cave-like areas hidden below the DJ booth. I was having so much fun, in fact, that something



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Cpl. Kenneth Kottra Jr., Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 meteorological equipment technician and native of Genoa City, Wis., enjoys the view during a ride on the Naniwa Tanken Cruise Oct. 6. The 1.5-hour ride down Dotombori River gives passengers a scenic glimpse of downtown Osaka.

odd began to come over me.

It started in my neck as my head slowly bobbed to the pumping trance beats and worked its way down to my hips. Before I knew it I was out on the floor, trying to do my best John Travolta and having the time of my life. No one seemed to mind my apparent lack of skill or rhythm, and several local girls even came to shake it with the weird American spectacle.

The sun was peeking over the city rooftops as we made our way home from Chameleon back to the hotel for a few precious hours of sleep before our 11 a.m. checkout. People would ask me later that day how my trip to Osaka was and if I had got anything while I was there.

I'd just smile and tell them I'd found my dancing shoes. To help plan your ideal Osaka adventure, contact IT&T at 253-4377.



The easiest way to report an incident or crime you may have witnessed anonymously is as easy as one, two, three. First, call the base hotline at 253-3333 to report the incident over the automated recorder with as much detail as you can recall. By doing this you can feel better about doing the right thing and help reduce crime in the community.

All 119/911 calls are handled as emergency calls. In cases where people dial 119/911 to report non-emergency situations, asking directions, or wondering if there will be school on a snowy day, may restrict someone who may be suffering from a real-life emergency from calling if the phones are busy with non-emergency calls.

One of the problems we have with reducing crime is that they are not reported. CRIMESTOPPERS helps individuals report crimes anonymously, secure, and ensures that actions will be taken to prevent future incidents. All reports received are verified to make sure that an incident or crime did happen and an investigation will be conducted.

If you notice any suspicious activity and would like to report a crime feel free to call 253-3333 or 0827-79-3333 from a cellphone, the CRIMESTOPPERS hotline, and assist us in ensuring your security as it is our priority.

Chapel Activities

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Saturday

Confession	1630-1715
Vigil Mass	1730

Sunday

Mass	0830
Catholic Religious Education (CCD)	0945-1055
Catholic Apologetics Study for Adults	0945-1055

Weekday Mass	Tuesday-Friday	1130
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Wednesday

Catholic Inquiry Class for Adults	1800-1900
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PROTESTANT

Sunday

Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowships	0930
Protestant Worship Service & Children's Church	1030
Spanish Bible Fellowship	1300

Wednesday

Awana Bldg 1104	1800
Wednesday Night Bible Study (Capodanno Hall)	1800

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Bible Study (Small Chapel)	0930
Worship Service (Small Chapel)	1030

JEWISH

Friday Shabbat Service (Small Chapel)	1800
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NICHIREN BUDDHIST

POC Mr. Frank Tomaszewski	253-6508
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ISLAMIC

Friday Prayer (Conference Room)	1200
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Station residents have a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl XLII in a Marine Corps Community Services-sponsored Corps-wide raffle this fall.

From Oct. 21 to Dec. 6, the MCCA Football Bash gives eligible patrons 18 years of age or older an opportunity to enter their name in a drawing being held Dec. 7 at the Club Iwakuni ballroom.

The first place winner will be entered into a drawing for one of the top three prizes from MCCA Headquarters in Quantico, Va., including the grand prize: a five-day/four-night, all-expenses-paid trip to Super Bowl XLII in Phoenix, valued at more than \$7,500, with an extra \$500 in spending money. Other prizes include \$1,000 in merchandise to the second place winner and \$500 in merchandise to the third place winner.

Non-MCCA personnel may enter in the drawing by legibly completing entry tickets at any MCCA club or restaurant. Patrons may enter as many times as they see necessary. However, entries are limited to one per visit. No purchase is necessary and prizes are not redeemable for cash. For more information on the MCCA Football Bash, contact Club Iwakuni by calling 253-5418.

Iwakuni Friendship League hosts 3rd season match, spares members a trip

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun Staff

Iwakuni Friendship League hosted its third bowling match of the season Oct. 5 at the Iwakuni Bowling Center here.

Iwakuni's "Spare Me" emerged with a won-lost record of 8-0 and total pinfall of 3,418 during this season's rounds.

The IFL consists of nine mixed Japanese and American teams that frequent the bowling alley and compete once a week for a cash prize at the end of the season as well as the title of the highest scoring team in the IFL.

"The three-man teams are very competitive this season," said Derrick M. Hurd, IFL secretary-treasurer and Indianapolis, Ind. native. "This is the first season we've brought this mixed crowd on base for seasonal games."

Spare Me has held the highest records in

recent weeks. Back 4 Revenge trails closely behind with a record of 7-1 and 3,260 after season rounds.

Pin Niku Mans has shown significant improvement in their overall 4-4 and 3,269 record in recent weeks. After jumping to the fifth spot from the seventh, replacing "Kumasan" and "Yasuragi," Pin Niku Mans could swiftly climb its way into a winning position by improving its record in coming matches.

The IFL normally competes in lanes within the surrounding areas outside the gate, giving the Japanese competitors an easy opportunity to interact with their American counterparts. With the new ability to compete at the on-base bowling facility, the two nationalities can meet three times a week, giving the American bowlers a "home-field advantage."

"Iwakuni bowlers have few avenues to go

SEE BOWL ON PAGE 9



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Friends from competing bowling teams exchange a civil handshake before commencing a Friday bowling match at the Iwakuni Bowling Center here. The game was the third for the Iwakuni Friendship League.



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Minako Hurd poises for her next attempt at a strike, improving her season record to 517 points in three games during a Friday bowling match at the Iwakuni Bowling Center here. The game was the third for the Iwakuni Friendship League.

BOWL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

bowling out on the town,” said Debbie J. Crone, Iwakuni Bowling Center manager and native of Ashland, Wash. “Our goal is to bring the Iwakuni bowling scene on base so that everyone is able to compete more conveniently.”

“Before this season started, we went out recruiting bowlers from out the gate. Once we had enough players, and through the help of our Semper Fit coordinators, we were able to invite them on base for our Friendship League.”

-Minako Hurd

Crone, along with a team of bowling sponsors put together by Hurd, saw fit to transport their once-remote bowling league on base for the sake of proximity.

“Each week, our Japanese friends are escorted on base so that they can practice with their teams, said Hurd. “Before this



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Feeling victorious, Debbie J. Crone, Bowling Facility manager and native of Ashland, Wash., celebrates after a strike during a Friday bowling match at the bowling alley here. The game was the third for the Iwakuni Friendship League.

season started, we went out recruiting bowlers from out the gate. Once we had enough players, and through the help of our Semper Fit coordinators, we were able to invite them on base for our Friendship League.”

The league has six more seasonal games to decide which team will win the cash prize.

For more information on Iwakuni Friendship League, contact the bowling alley by calling 253-4895.



Sgt. Daniel S. Stephens, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron military policeman walks with his son, Dylan, in a three-legged race during the H&HS family day Saturday at Hachigamine Park.

Jessee L. Gorst, Matthew C. Perry High School Baseball Team member and native of Atsugi, Japan, presents his trophy and plaque as he is recognized by Major League Baseball as the recipient of the 2007 Star Award. The Star Award recipient, nominated by the Youth Sports Division, is recognized as the most outstanding little league player in the pacific region.



Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

AL FAYIL, Iraq

Shepherd boy wounded by stray bullet, receives care from MNF-West

by Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich
II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

Whenever coalition forces drive into a village children come running, screaming and waving. “Mista, mista, you give me futbol,” or “Mista, please, chocolate, give me,” are the most common phrases used by Iraqi children. As soon as the trucks stop they are engulfed by a frenzy of children, resembling an ice cream truck on a hot summer day. But recently, Marines brought more than soccer balls and candy to this small farming community; they brought home a child wounded by war.

He is thirteen and shy. His black hair is short and his wide eyes are harmless. He wore a blue medical blouse, slippers and a pair of dog tags from 2nd Marine Division. His timid nature seemed to invoke a sense of sadness, especially for his mother who had not seen him in more than a week. His name is Abdul Ahmad and he is a shepherd.

He is from a rural town less than five miles

from Multi National Force – West’s headquarters base at Camp Fallujah. It is an area of recent troubles. Sporadic gun fire and weapon caches have caused coalition forces to remain active in this area. While men and women go about their daily lives of herding cattle and sheep, gathering fire wood and plowing fields, terrorists sneak into their midst and disrupt everything that is peaceful.

While attending to his family’s sheep last month, a ricocheted bullet found its way into Ahmad’s stomach. There was no warning or cause and Ahmad barely made it home. His father rushed him to the city’s hospital, Fallujah General, where Iraqi doctors did the best they could for several days.

As the boy’s thin frame lay on the hospital bed in pain, infection was being treated by antibiotics. He was in stable condition and doctors were able to properly clean the wound, but could not remove the bullet, which had entered through his left abdomen, hit his right hip and lodged itself underneath

his ribcage. They performed a colonoscopy, bringing his colon to the skin’s surface and placed a bag over it to collect stool. Despite doing all they could, Iraqi doctors did not have access to computed axial tomography imagery, or CAT scan, making it impossible to locate the bullet and remove it.

Things never reached dire status, but the town’s sheik, Hamid Ferris Turki, knew the best thing for his nephew was to seek U.S. help.

While on a normal patrol through the dusty roads of Al Fayil, Task Force Guardian was approached by Turki. He told the Marines there was a local boy who had been shot a few days earlier and needed American doctors. But finding a wounded boy in Anbar is more difficult than it may seem. Even with help of local doctors and area sheiks, it still took the Marines five days to find Ahmad.

Once he was found in Fallujah’s hospital,



Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich

Abdul Ahmad, 13, stands in front of his father while being welcomed home by friends and family members, Oct 1. Ahmad traveled to Al Asad via Blackhawk helicopter to see Naval surgeons after being shot by a ricocheted bullet.

SEE CORPS ON PAGE 12

AL FAYIL, Iraq

CORPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Marine leaders decided it was worth the risk to travel into the city and retrieve the wounded shepherd boy. They would use the safest vehicle available to them, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, and a convoy of gun trucks to escort Ahmad back to the coalition's base hospital, Fal-lujah Surgical. Time was ticking and those involved were focused on helping the child none of them knew. Perhaps their motivation was just part of their job, or maybe they had children, nieces or nephews back in the states. Maybe it is just what Americans do, help those in need. Regardless, Ahmad's future took a turn for the better as soon as he was loaded into the military vehicle, one he had seen from the pastures of his village only days earlier.

"He didn't seem scared, just tired and in pain," said Capt. Michael Murray, the civil affairs officer for Headquarters Battalion, Multi National Force – West, who went to pick up Ahmad and his father, Abu Hammed. "He was very thin and wasn't moving much. His father was very happy to see us."

Those who witnessed Abu Hammed at Fal-lujah Surgical said he was overcome with the attention his youngest son was receiving. By

the time the battalion commander got there 15 minutes later, Ahmad was already on the X-ray table. The surgeons, still unable to decipher the bullet's exact location, decided he needed a CAT scan.

The commander, Col. Vincent Stewart, was committed to making it happen, and asked "Where is the best care for his needs?"

The doctors agreed the place Ahmad needed to go was Al Asad, a base which housed more Marines than any other in Anbar. It would take less than an hour to get there by helicopter, but would need the approval from the commanding general of MNF-West, Maj. Gen. W.E. Gaskin.

According to Stewart, getting the general to approve such a request was not a problem.

Doctors at Al Asad found the small bullet and decided it was not causing harm to the boy or his future. They reattached his colon and held him for two days to observe his progress.

Ahmad was taken home Oct. 1. The entire village, which consisted mostly of children Ahmad's age and relatives, greeted his return. Marines stood amongst the crowd as each relative and friend came by to hug and welcome Ahmad home, who remained



Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich

Thirteen-year-old Abdul Ahmad is welcomed home by his mother Oct. 1, after being gone for several days to Al Asad where he underwent surgery to reattach his colon. Ahmad was hit by a ricocheted bullet while herding sheep and his uncle, the town sheik, sought U.S. help.

quiet, only smiling. Sheik Turki, the brother of Ahmad's father, waited inside Ahmad's home. The two embraced and the sheik kissed both sides of his young nephew's face. He turned to Maj. Jamie Farrelly, the operations officer for Headquarters Battalion, and

thanked him.

"We thank the Marines, they were very kind and helpful," said Turki.

SEE CORPS ON PAGE 13

AL FAYIL, Iraq



Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich

Abdul Ahmad stands next to his father, Abu Hammed, at their home, Oct. 1. The young shepherd was greeted by members of his extended family after undergoing surgery by Naval doctors at Al Asad.

CORPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Farrelly shared Ahmad's story with the growing crowd gathering inside the home. He talked about Ahmad's bravery and his excitement when flying inside a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter.

Ahmad, too tired to remain standing by his father's side, had a seat on the floor. Ahmad's many cousins went by his side. They asked questions and looked at his wounds and dog tags. Other children peeped through the windows trying to see what was going on. Ahmad, still reserved, hardly said anything at all.



Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich

Abdul Ahmad, 13, shows a bandage covering his exposed colon as his cousin looks on, Oct. 1. He was accidentally shot in the stomach and sought U.S. medical care after being taken to a Fallujah hospital.

Although Ahmad is home, he is not out of the woods. Naval corpsmen will continue to stop by and check on the status and eventually remove the colonoscopy bag, making Ahmad able to live a normal life.

Coalition forces did more than help a wounded child; they became a part of his-

tory. In Iraqi culture, stories such as this one will be passed down for generations, from grandparents to grandchildren, from Ahmad to his sons. When the dust finally settles and Ahmad's neighborhood has returned to peace, he will have more than a scar to remember those who helped him and his community.



Seaman Jessie D. Larot
Virginia Beach, Va.

“Being able to celebrate the birth of the U.S. Navy makes me proud. I have the pleasure of celebrating the fact that I’m now American because the Navy was able give me citizenship. On the Navy Birthday, I can think about what sets us apart as a service and what I will do in the coming year to live up to those who have come before me.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Rod A. Reed
Boston

“It makes me proud to be able to reflect on the hundreds of years of naval history. Not every service can say that they were the decisive element in a number of American wars. The Navy can be attributed to acts of American courage.”



As the United States Navy turns 232 Saturday, it’s important to reflect on not only how the Navy has grown from two warships to the greatest Navy in the world, but how each year the Navy forever changes the lives of our beloved motley crew, the sailors of Iwakuni. While the Shimbun staff wishes to all sailors a sincere happy birthday, we also ask ...

What makes you proud to be a sailor during the Navy Birthday?



Petty Officer 1st Class Alvarez M. Hemphil
Rock Hill, S.C.

“After 22 years of active service, nothing makes me more proud than passing down naval traditions to future generations and realizing after meeting so many sailors the sheer diversity of the Navy.”

Lt. j.g. Molly P. Hurda
Vermillion, S.D.

“My favorite part about being a sailor during this time of year is getting together with others and building camaraderie. It feels so special to be a part of a Navy tradition. It makes you feel like a patriot. It makes you feel like a part of something larger than yourself.”





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