

## Hawks return from Commando Sling

CPL. ANTHONY D. PIKE  
Combat Correspondent

Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 returned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Sept. 1, after deploying to Paya Lebar Air Base, Singapore, to participate in Exercise Commando Sling.

The squadron, known as the Hawks, deployed Aug. 5, taking with them approximately 10 F/A-18Ds and 100 Marines. Commando Sling is an air-to-air exercise that began with an agreement between the United States and Singapore in 1990. The objectives of the exercise are to fulfill a US commitment for continuous presence in Singapore, and to test the long-range mobilization ability of deploying US forces.

The Hawks commenced flight operations Aug. 9, with the initial sorties dedicated to basic fighter maneuvers between single F/A-18Ds and single Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) A-4/F-5/F-16. As the exercise progressed, the training complexity escalated with various mission scenarios involving multiple aircraft in large force exercises. Squadron Air Combat Tactics In-

see **HAWKS** Page 5



Staff Sgt. Mike Picklo

Marines and Sailors aboard the Station were sent cleaning after Typhoon Songda hit here reaching wind speeds of 100 miles per hour. Along with structural damage, many trees were uprooted.

## Typhoon Songda sweeps Station

LANCE CL. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Typhoon Songda saluted Iwakuni Tuesday with stinging rain and winds gusting up to 100 miles per hour. In her wake she left power outages, severe damage to several structures aboard the Station and the battered remains of previously well-manicured foliage.

"Parts of several roofs were blown off," said Petty Officer 1st Class David Moore, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Station facilities maintenance chief. "Power outages were a problem on the South side of the Station, although essential facilities such as the Provost Marshal's Office and Branch Medical Clinic were able to operate on backup generators.

"So far our two main goals have been to get the power back up and ensure the roads are clear for emergency vehicles," noted Moore.

Wednesday morning found Gunnery Sgt. Coleman Scott, H&HS, Station chief contracting officer, assessing the damage to his workplace: Building 163.

Broken glass, insulation materials and ceiling tiles lay in sopping piles on the floor, as stacks of paperwork sop up the small lakes that have formed on each exposed desk.

"There's 10-feet of sunlight coming through the ceiling," pointed Scott.

"Right now we're making initial assessments - we're ba-

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### IWAKUNI WEATHER

Today  
T-Storms  
High: 80

Saturday  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 87

Sunday  
Scattered T-Storms  
High: 84

[www.iwakuni.usmc.mil](http://www.iwakuni.usmc.mil)

## Unexploded ordnance found near runway project

CPL. ANTHONY D. PIKE  
Combat Correspondent

Contractors working on the Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project were delayed after finding unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the water about 250 meters adjacent to the relocation runway, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

The contractors were alerted to objects in the water near the site of the new runway when one of their tools detected metal in the water.

"They then sent divers to check it out," said Warrant Officer Wesley Williams, explosive ordnance disposal officer-in-charge.

Once the items were discovered,

EOD, provost marshal's office, medical and the fire department were called to the scene along with Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force EOD divers from Kure.

The Japanese divers found six unexploded rounds, according to a press release from Iwakuni Maritime Safety Base. Three were large mines and the other three were smaller mines.

Once the mines were found they were marked and preserved underwater until they could be removed from the area, according to the press release.

"They do appear to be of Japanese origin from World War II or prior," said Wesley. "We are not sure how they got there. But they were still intact. We con-

sider the worst-case scenario and we considered it to be armed. They have been removed by the JMSDF divers to dispose of."

Although Wesley is unsure of how the mines came so close to base, he offers the following advice to anybody who believes they have found UXO.

"First off, don't touch it," said Wesley. "You need to report this to PMO, they can make sure all the right people are contacted. Provide a location of where it is and a description of what it looks like and about how much it weighs. Finally mark it somehow. This way when EOD goes to retrieve it they can find it without tripping on it."



Torii Teller

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# Taking time to remember September 11, 2001

CAPT. STEWART T. UPTON  
Public Affairs Officer

Sometimes you may ask yourself why we have days of remembrance that may take valuable time out of your day.

For those of valor or of fate; their actions or the unfortunate happenings that caused them to leave us and the effects it has upon their friends and family may make the headlines for a day or two ... but not everyday and not forever.

If you died and your family members could have one day to remind them, wouldn't you hope it could be not of their loss, but of your value?

During these times, we find ourselves in a war on terrorism. Some would even say we are also in a battle for our way of life, our values and our fundamental beliefs. It is important that we don't lose focus on eradicating the threat of terrorists attacking our homeland.

On Oct. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush said in an address to the nation when operations began in Afghanistan, "We will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail."

So today, please take some time out of your busy day to remember those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the War on Terror so our families can sleep at night without fear of a terrorist attack.

Let's refocus and revitalize ourselves to being committed to this battle of freedom over tyranny and give thanks and praise to those we will never forget who meant so much to us and to the world.

## September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Luncheon



Date: 10 September 2004  
Place: Southside Chowhall  
Time: 1215 (must be seated by 1200)  
POC: Station Chapel 253-3371

## It's time to pursue true knowledge

LANCE Cpl. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Nothing bothers me more than the ignorant voter.

And recently I've been pretty bothered.

As the presidential election draws near, the number of mindless comments alluding to voters' political persuasion has increased.

Comments ranging from "I don't even need to know the other guy's name," to "I vote a straight ticket! - always!" are commonplace.

Popular magazines back in the United States rate the delivery of candidates' speeches, their sexiness and how people feel about their friendliness and humor.

Those criteria, though unspoken, seem to exist here as well.

Rather than focusing on a candidate's stance on relevant issues, the focus seems to have shifted to the candidate himself.

Or, even worse, voters learn of a candidate's stance on one or two issues, and vote based on that scrap of knowledge.

That is why it warms my heart to hear people say, "I'm a Republican voting for Kerry," or "I'm a diehard Democrat, but this year I think Bush is

the best choice for office," or "Go Nader!"

This indicates (in two out of the three cases) that the voter is thinking.

This year, after researching the stances of the current presidential candidates on issues like the role of religion in government, the death penalty, education initiatives and welfare reforms, I surprised myself by deciding to swing my vote to the other guy's party.

Please try to imagine yourself at Churchill Downs - ready to watch a group of champion horses race for the Firecracker Breeders' Cup.

You're rooting for Relentless Red, a thoroughbred with an excellent track record. You know Red's strengths and weaknesses, and like what you see - he's *your* horse.

However, you haven't placed your money on Red without also knowing the records of Crafty Shaw, Old Deuteronomy, and all of the other top competitors.

It wouldn't make sense to favor a horse simply because you had favored it for the past four seasons. You would recognize the importance of continuing to monitor your horse's fitness, and of researching the records of other recent champions.

The choice you make before the

race at Churchill Downs will affect your wallet, so of course you'll choose wisely.

The outcome of the presidential race will impact a heck of a lot more than your wallet.

Shouldn't you do a little research on the competition?

The Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "To know that you know what you know, and that you do not know what you do not know, that is true knowledge."

I ask you to pursue true knowledge by knowing what you know, and finding the answers to what you know you do not know.

The decision you make in this upcoming election will have a tremendous impact on our nation's immediate welfare.

Please choose wisely.

For a better idea of which candidate most closely mirrors your ideals and views on a wide range of current issues, you can fill out a free five-minute survey at [www.presidentmatch.com](http://www.presidentmatch.com).

For more information about the goals and beliefs of each primary presidential candidate, visit [www.georgebush.com](http://www.georgebush.com), [www.johnkerry.com](http://www.johnkerry.com) and [www.votenader.org](http://www.votenader.org).

# Mold is unwelcome guest aboard the Station

CH. ANTHONY D. PIKE  
Combat Correspondent

The Air Station has another pest to contend with - mold. Barracks 1388 has mold growing, and with it are growing health concerns.

"We have hired some contractors to remove the mold from the fourth deck of those barracks," said Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Moore, facilities maintenance. "It wasn't deemed necessary to close the barracks, but we did have to remove the mold."

Here in Iwakuni, the growth of mold can be a widespread problem if certain precautions aren't taken.

"Mold may begin growing when mold spores land on surfaces that are wet," states an informational brochure put out by the Centers for Disease Control. "There are many types of mold, and none of them will grow without water or moisture."



Photo courtesy of Centers for Disease Control

When cleaning mold one should wear gloves and a mask.

Besides the unpleasant odors that factors exist as well. are associated with mold, many health "Molds have the potential to cause

health problems," states the brochure. "Molds produce allergens, irritants and in some cases, potentially toxic substances. Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes and skin rash."

It's important to clean up mold as soon as it is found. It is also important that the source of water is fixed as well. This may mean having to fix or replace water pipes.

When cleaning a fabric that has had mold growing on it, the CDC suggests sprinkling Baking Soda over the fabric and allowing it to sit over night before vacuuming the Baking Soda. Another tip is to help ventilate the area by running a fan or opening a window.

According to the CDC some items cannot be cleaned. For instance, porous items such as ceiling tiles and carpets should be thrown out due to the diffi-

see MOLD Page 5

## September construction slated for Station

LANCE Cpl. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Station residents will soon be seeing an increase in road-construction here. Several projects are in the works, but the lengthiest and most visible project will be the repaving of S Avenue.

S Avenue is the street that runs in front of the Iron Works Gym toward Torii Video.

From Sept. 9 to 30, one-lane traffic will be required on portions of the road, stated Mark Nedzcala, resident engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The construction is required as part of the underground utilities relocation for the runway project," said Nedzcala. "The road has settled, and we're going to give it a final paving to smooth things out."

From Sept. 9 to 20, one lane will be opened on S Avenue from Building 658 (Mid-rise) to Building 330 (BEQ.) Sept. 18 to 25 will find single-lane traffic from Building 330 to Building 313 (BEQ.) And the final phase of construction will run from Sept. 23 to 30, between the BEQ and IronWorks Gym.

Construction work will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., noted Nedzcala.

The paving project, funded and contracted by the Japanese government, carries an approximate cost of 9,000,000 Yen, said Nedzcala.

According to an information sheet published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Japan Engineer District, Resident Office, the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni seaport and runway relocation project is the Department of Defense's largest construction project in the world. The project is also the largest the government of Japan has undertaken.

Highlights of the project include the Atago Mountain demolition, Seto Inland Sea reclamation, new seaport buildings' construction and the jet aircraft runway, noted the information sheet.

Other construction work for the month of September includes a Station road closure.

According to Nedzcala, a dead-end road west of the main gate will be closed from Sept. 1 to Oct. 16. The closure is necessary for the construction of a perimeter spider stop barrier.

"The S Avenue work and dead-end road closure are the only construction projects slated for September that will directly effect Station residents," said Roy Iwane, Planning Facilities manager.



Photo courtesy of Mark Nedzcala

Heavy machinery works to relocate mountains of dirt for the Station runway relocation project. The project is the Department of Defense's largest construction project in the world.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### IWAKUNI MILITARY RETIREE ASSOCIATION

The Iwakuni Military Retiree Association will hold its monthly meeting for September at Kintai Bridge during the picnic to be held there on Sunday, Sept. 12, 12:30 p.m. For updated news about the retirees at Iwakuni, visit their web page at <http://www.c-able.ne.jp/~abh>.

### SEALED BID SALE

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office Iwakuni's next local sealed bid sale will start Sept. 20. Property on sale can and should be inspected at DRMO, Sept. 20-22. Make sure to inspect the property prior to bidding. Bid must be received no later than Sept. 23, 8 a.m. Property on sale includes furniture, computer equipment, military clothing, exercise equipment, photo equipment. Call 253-3982 or 253-4089 for details.

### TIME FOR SMILES GIVEAWAY

Nov. 29, 12-4:30 p.m. (or until toys run out). Santa will give away 800 toys to the Station children up to 12 years old near the Crossroads Amphitheater. Santa asks children to save their Boys & Girls Club Time For Smiles gifts to open on Christmas Day. Toys are a courtesy of Toys 'R' Us. For details, contact Eugene Clark at 253-4803.

# Marines spend day at preschool

CHL. DAVE BONI  
Combat Correspondent

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia**—Marines deployed here for Southern Frontier spent the better part of their day, Aug. 29, at a local preschool improving the surroundings for the children and teachers.

Over 25 Marines ventured out to Katherine South Preschool, located in downtown Katherine, for about three hours of work and long-lasting impressions on their gracious hosts.

"I have been working at the preschool for 20 years and I have never seen a volunteer project like this ever before," said Robyn Morris, teacher's assistant at the preschool. "The Marines did an excellent job."

The day began at 2 p.m. with the Marines coming in by bus, ready for what was in store for them. Morris, with a map and directions written in crayons, showed the Marines the areas around the building that needed to be cleaned up or repaired.

"We desperately needed the mildew cleaned off the sides of the preschool, and help planting shrubs and flowers, spreading mulch, pulling weeds, fixing



Marines work in small groups to tackle the tasks given to them during a visit to the Katherine South Preschool Aug. 29.



Lance Cpl. Shaneka Shaw plants flowers at the Katherine South Preschool Aug. 29.

wheelbarrows and bicycles and other small miscellaneous projects we would not be able to complete ourselves," said Morris.

The Marines did all this and more as they broke up in small groups to tackle each task. Soon trash bags filled the area where fallen leaves and overgrown bushes had once been.

"It was great to come out here and lend a hand," said Gunnery Sgt. Sam Perez, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, detachment officer in charge.

After the work was complete, the Marines posed for photos with the teachers so the children would be able to see the faces of the volunteers who fixed up their school.



Lance Cpl. Gordon Johansen puts together a toy for the children at the Katherine South Preschool Aug. 29.

Photos by Cpl. Dave Boni

"I enjoy volunteering anyway, but when you're doing it for kids it makes it even better," said Lance Cpl. Wayne Johansen, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, communications technician.

Perez agreed, adding, "I know I would want my kids to go to a nice school like this and it just gives the Marines a little extra motivation when they know they're impacting children's lives."

have fish head soup to bring them good luck.

"May you be inscribed for a good year," is the traditional greeting for Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. This marks the beginning of a holiday season of reflection and celebration for Jews throughout the world.

Families begin the new year by cleaning their homes and preparing special meals. The month before Rosh Hashana is when many people reflect on the past year and their behavior. The goal is to see where they can improve their lives and their relationships with friends and family.

Rosh Hashana begins at sundown with special prayers. After services, families go home to festive meals. It is tradition to eat apples and honey for a sweet new year. Many families also

The next morning, people return to the synagogue for morning prayers and the blowing of the shofar, a ram's horn, to welcome the new year. When the morning services finish, families return to their homes for another festive meal. Afterwards, people go to a stream or pond where there are fish for tashlich. This is where people say certain prayers while throwing bread into the water as a symbolic way of casting away of their sins. The rest of the day is usually spent reading prayers or in quiet reflection.

After Rosh Hashana, come the Days of Awe, ten days until Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. During this time, most Jews visit family and friends to patch up any problems they might have. The idea is to forgive

each other for the wrongs people have done. Some say the idea is not so much to find forgiveness, but to forgive others. The goal is to give up anger and malice.

Yom Kippur begins the evening before with the Kol Nidre, special prayers to prepare people to relieve them of the obligations from promises they made in the past year and were not able to keep either through their own actions or by circumstances. The next day is spent in prayer and reflection while asking for forgiveness.

The most demanding part of Yom Kippur is the total fast of no food or drink for 24 hours, from sundown to sundown. Many orthodox Jews also don't bathe or shave during this time. Children, pregnant women and those who are ill are exempted from participating in the fast. The reason for the

fast is to suffer affliction and show remorse for sins. Another reason is to help people find the discipline they need to avoid their past problems. The idea is if they can refuse food, then they can refuse temptation or find self-discipline to improve. After the evening prayers, families hold a simple meal to break the fast.

This year, Rosh Hashana welcomes the year 5765 at sundown on Wednesday, and Yom Kippur begins at sundown Sept. 24. The Iwakuni Jewish Community will hold special services and prayers for these holidays and is also planning on joining the Kansai Jewish Community in Kobe. For more information about these services, contact Gunnery Sgt. Mark Zeid, the Jewish Lay Leader at 082-231-4008 in the evening or the station chapel.

# Sunset Gardens provides musical relief

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CHL. ANTHONY D. PIKE  
Combat Correspondent

On Sunday evenings there is more than a cool breeze blowing on the patio of Club Iwakuni. Sunset Gardens allows musically inclined Station residents to showcase their talents from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

The night features a mix of cover songs, original pieces and comedic improvisations from an acoustic guitar to a full band. For residents who don't play an instrument, karaoke is a welcome option.

"I thought it was awesome," said Cpl. Larry Novelo, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, during his first time at Sunset Gardens. "It was more than I expected, I thought people would be reading poetry."



Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronnie Nix sings while Gunnery Sgt. Sal Cardella plays the guitar and Cpl. Jon Devries plays a baseline. Nix is a regular at the Sunset Gardens.

The songs played by the performers range from rock to R&B, offering different selections for every musical taste.

"The mix showed the eclectic mix that the Marine Corps represents," said Novelo. "They all came together and brought their different style of music," he said of the musical choices.

For some performers this offers a chance to begin playing in front of a crowd.

"This will be my first time playing here," said bassist Cpl. Jon Devries, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "I'll be playing in a band with another Marine and a couple of civilians."

Other performers have become known as staples of Sunset Gardens.

"I played every Sunday last year and have played every Sunday this year," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronnie Nix, H&HS. "I just like performing,

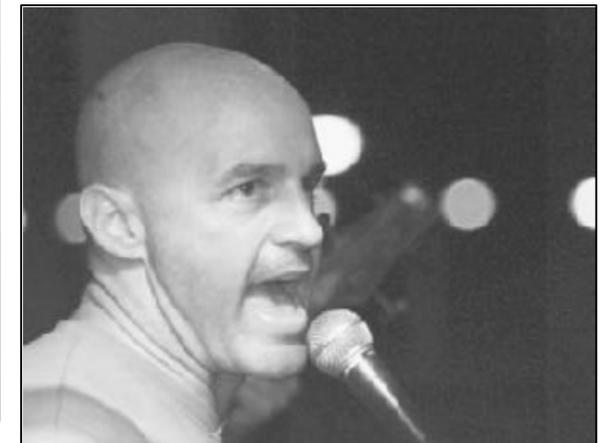
I get to show off my talent and act foolish. It gives the local community here



Performing at the Sunset Gardens allows Station residents to show case their talents.

a chance to perform. It also shows off a lot of hidden talent."

Sunset Gardens first started last year and began again in August. It is scheduled to run until the last Sunday in September.



First time Sunset Gardens performer Gunnery Sgt. Sal Cardella belts out a few tunes.

PEACE from Page 2

sically in recovery mode," he said. "We're trying to figure out what to do with 70 people who suddenly don't have a work space."

According to Scott, engineers have said that at least 50-percent of the building sustained structural damage.

"This is the worst storm I've seen since I was stationed in Okinawa," added Scott.

According to Moore, Station recovery personnel are moving forward with standard recovery procedures in spite of a second tropical storm approaching.

"With the exception of a brief rest pe-

riod, the Seabees have been working nonstop," said Moore.

Moore credits the Seabees of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, as well as the Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 with assisting the recovery effort.

"We'd like to thank them for lending a hand as we work to restore order to the Station," he said.

Moore also noted the exceptional service of the Japanese employees.

"They do an outstanding job every day and whenever we call on them," said Moore. "They're working hard right along with us."

MOLD from Page 3

culty in removing all the mold growing in these items.

Before deeming an area clean of mold, the CDC reminds people to make sure that in addition to the mold being removed, the source of water has been fixed as well. Once the cleanup is complete, there should be no visible mold or moldy odors present. People residing in the affected areas should be able to occupy the area without health complaints or physical symptoms.

HAWKS from Page 1

structors were able to capitalize on their training and knowledge in order to effectively instruct the younger aircrews.

"Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT) opportunities of this nature are rare," said Capt. P.L. Fitzgerald, VMFA(AW)-533 admin officer. "Squadron aircrew were able to brief, fly and debrief with RSAF aircrew and gain a new level of proficiency and experience that will pay big dividends."

Other Hawk aircrew agreed that being able to fly against different aircraft is something that is hard to come by in the United States.

"Commando Sling was a great exercise for the squadron and provided invaluable training that is difficult to get back in the States," said Capt. Jason McManigle, VMFA(AW)-533 family readiness officer.

For the Marines on the ground and in the hangars, training in Singapore offered other benefits.

"It helped the Marines in my shop a lot," said Sgt. Tim Shackelford, VMFA(AW)-533, avionics non commissioned officer-in-charge. "Each place we go provides a different stress environment and has different things that can stress the Marines. But the jets don't change, whether here or at war. Singapore has been the highlight of my [Western Pacific] deployment."

The valuable training received from flying in Singapore would not have been possible without the help of the 144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, Republic of Singapore Air Force, based at Paya Lebar.

"The 144<sup>th</sup> were excellent hosts, professional aviators and good friends," said Lt. Col. Mark G. Mykleby, VMFA (AW)-533, commanding officer. "The exercise was an overwhelming success. I am proud of each and every Hawk for their contribution and commitment to the squadron and the Marine Corps."

# Japanese vineyards yield sweet surprises in rural town

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CL. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

Morning fog reluctantly rolls out of the small valley town of Miyoshi, exposing vast vineyards stretching across the hillsides in one seamlessly connected canopy. Within the canopy, Seven-year-old Alexandria Hopley finds herself in a world of upside-down proportions. The old Japanese vineyard keepers are barely over four feet tall, while the grapes they tend are several times larger than any she would see in America. The trees themselves stretch to only about five feet in height, perfect for grape picking.

"You can squeeze them right out of their skin," said Hopley in between juicy mouthfuls.

It's just one of the unique aspects of the Kyoho grapes that come from these vineyards. Others are their unusual sweetness and size rivaling that of a small plum.

"We were so surprised that you could just squish them and they would pop out," said Jennifer Hopley, Alexandria's mother. "You can't experience something like this in the states."

Besides the Kyoho, Pione grapes are grown in these vineyards.

According to the Hirata Fruit Farm brochure, Pione come from specially grafted vines grown only in Miyoshi, making the town an international

destination for wine connoisseurs.

"Pione are very big grapes," said Yuji Tanaka, Information Tours and Travel tour guide. "They are sweet, and make very sweet wine."

The nearby winery has tasting vats, a factory observation walk, a souvenir shop and a barbecue restaurant for visitors making a day of it.

Tanaka said both kinds of fruit are grown only in Japan. Miyoshi is an ideal location for the large Kyoho and Pione grapes because of the unique climate.

"The climate here is perfect for the grapes," he said. "Miyoshi is in a large basin, and there are mountains all around."

According to Tanaka, the moisture that lingers in the basin every morning produces a year-round greenhouse effect.

Besides grapes, numerous other kinds of produce are grown in the farming community, including strawberries, apples, pears and rice.

Tanaka said the best seasons for visiting are at the end of summer for the grapes, early November for the apples, and early spring for strawberries.

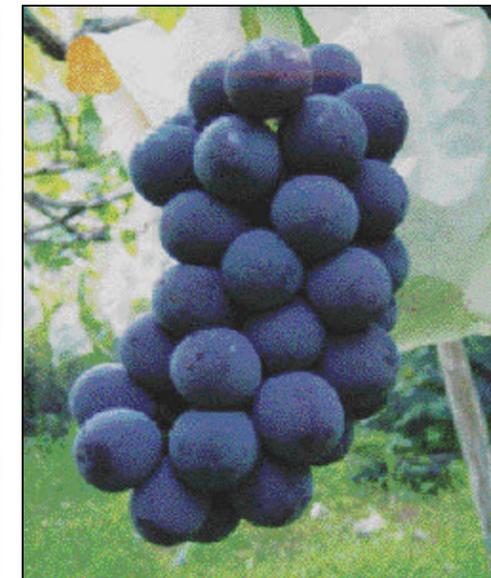
"Go to Miyoshi to eat the fresh fruit," said Tanaka. "It's a good place to bring your family too."

"We would definitely go back again," affirmed Hopley. "It's a different part of Japan to see."

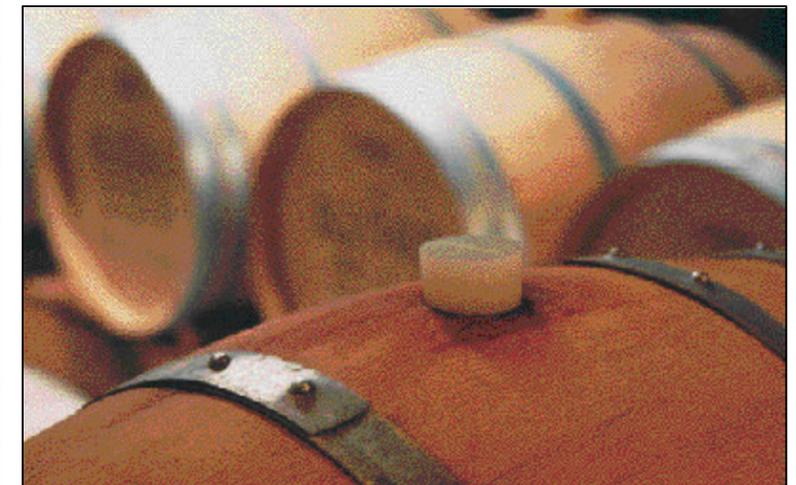
For more information about visiting Miyoshi, call the ITT office at 253-4377.



A vineyard worker marks a ripe grape bunch with a white bag. Late summer is the prime grape season in Miyoshi.



Large, Kyoho grapes are in season now at the Hirata Fruit Farm in Miyoshi. To avoid a bitter taste, don't eat the skin.



Cellars stacked with wine vats underlay the Miyoshi Winery in an expansive subterranean facility.



Far-stretching vineyards spread across the hillsides in the rural town of Miyoshi.



World-famous Pione wine is sold in the souvenir shop at the Miyoshi Winery.

# Hundred yen stores provide creative alternative to expensive culture

LANCE Cpl. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

If expensive goods were a sickness, Japan's hundred yen stores would be the cure.

Since the nation's economy peaked in '96, it has slid steadily to an all time low, giving rise to a new breed of shoppers. Both rich and ultra conservative are now looking for a bargain, and retailers are struggling to develop new ways of doing business to meet their needs and stay afloat, according to www.finex.co.jp.

The hundred yen store, notes the Web site, is the answer to the nation's cry for lower prices, and the concept is quickly gaining popularity.

"I like the convenience of hundred yen stores," noted Lance Cpl. Ruthy Cutright, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, flight clearance dispatcher. "You can find one on nearly any city street corner."

According to www.ibpcosaka.or.jp, "Hundred yen shops began as street stalls, when stall-holders would buy goods such as bankruptcy goods cheaply, rent the space in front of an ordinary house, and borrow a wooden door to use to display and sell their products. This trade was hence also known as the "wooden door business."

"Although modern hundred yen shops have been around in Japan since the '70's, the recent hundred yen boom directly connected to the economic occurrences has made a once not so well thought of shopping experience into a gold rush as people try to get the best deals in hard times," notes www.finex.co.jp.

Cutright, who shops regularly at



Internet Photo

The concept of hundred yen stores has gained popularity over the past few years. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 hundred yen stores now populate Japan, offering the consumer quality goods at a minimal price.

the hundred yen store, notes that although she shops for items such as stuffed animals, glassware, and souvenirs, she finds practical things as well.

"I've found useful items for my barracks room," noted the Virginia native. "Hundred yen stores have everything from toilet paper to picture frames to toilet-seat covers."

According to the Web site, bigger is better when it comes to choosing a hundred yen store to shop at. "Try to aim for the largest stores possible, because it is there that you will find the best quality and most variety. Hundred yen shops... are extremely clean and sometimes make you feel as if you were in an ordinary shopping mall or supermarket.

"I found things at the hundred yen store that I never would have imagined," noted Lance Cpl. Josh Johnson, H&HS, broadcaster. "For 400 yen, I

mold charge is redeemed by selling between one and two million pieces over a period of three to four years, rather than including it into the cost."

Buying in bulk for lower prices results in hundred yen stores being able to hawk 1000-yen items for their lowest advertised price - 100 yen. According to the Web site, this makes their customers "happy and frequent."

Since its humble beginnings as a "wooden door business," hundred yen stores and goods have improved dramatically in quality, states www.ibpcosaka.or.jp.

These improvements have helped the shops shed their previous unfavorable image and enter the mainstream as an integral part of Japanese culture.

"At present in Japan, there are thought to be some 10,000 hundred yen shops, and this number looks set to increase further," notes the site.

"There are also a considerable number of department stores and supermarkets which set up temporary 'hundred-yen goods corners' for a fixed period only. Recently... a well-known Osaka department store set up a highly successful permanent 'hundred yen goods corner.'"

Innovation springing from the concept of hundred yen stores is rampant, and hundred yen supermarkets, delis and groceries are springing up.

"Eighty-eight yen shops," are also appearing, but a campaign against these low-priced competitors has seen makers and wholesalers agree not to supply goods to these stores," notes the Web site.

Whatever turns the industry takes, one can only hope the relatively new tradition of hundred yen shops continues.

was able to buy a four-piece Sake set - I'd say that was the best bargain I've found. It's neat to be able to go into a place, and know that whatever lands in your basket won't cost more than a buck."

Hundred yen stores are able to offer such low prices for a variety of reasons, notes the Web site. Some stores are able to manufacture up to 80 percent of their products, while others concentrate on making special deals with manufacturers.

Stores often purchase "huge amounts of items from manufacturers for less money instead of the more expensive fewer amounts from wholesalers," adds the site.

For example, selling plastic products and other products requiring expensive molds for 100 yen would be impossible if the cost of the mold were to be included in the final price of the item, notes www.ibpcosaka.or.jp. "The



## OUT THE GATE

Note: Japanese who do not speak English may answer the phone numbers provided.

### Mantoue: Candle Light Festival

A festival is held at the Daishoin Temple on Miyajima Island today and Saturday. Candles will be decorated around the temple. A concert by flute and piano is scheduled today, 7:30-9 p.m. A Buddhist service is held at 6:30 p.m. and a music performance by violin and piano is 7:30-9 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call

0829-44-0111.

### JMSDF Iwakuni Air Station Festival

This festival will be held at the Japanese Marine Self-Defense Force Iwakuni Air Station Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be aircraft static displays, Japanese drum performance, flea market, and more. Call 22-3181 for more details.

### Matsuri Fiesta

There will be a festival around the Kintai Bridge area, Sept. 20, 9:30 to 6 p.m. Japanese drum performances, sacred music and dance,

and more are scheduled. For more information, call 23-1177. We are looking for 8 adults and 10 children to participate the tug of war, held during this festival. Call Public Affairs Office, Yukie Wada at 253-5344 or 253-5551 for more details. Sign-up now through Monday.

### Flower Arrangement Display

Visitors can view approximately 200 pieces of flower arrangement in the exhibition hall and the multi-purpose room in Sinfonia Iwakuni from Thursday through Sept. 20, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. Call 0832-32-3330 for more information.

## TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

To submit your ads or announcements: *Torii Teller* accepts ads/announcements from nonprofit organizations and groups only. Briefs run on space-available and time-

priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Thursday. *Torii Teller* reserves the right to edit to fit space. Stop by Building 1, Room 216 to fill out a form.

### AUTOMOBILES

**Nissan Skyline**, 1994, 2 door, black, 5 speed, turbo, cold A/C, AM/FM/cassette/CD player, blow off valve, new battery, P/W, P/D, excellent condition, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$3,300 obo. Call SSgt. Aburto at 253-4079 dwh or 253-2811 awh.

**Toyota Carib Sprinter**, 1994, 5 doors, 4 wheel drive, 5 passenger station wagon, cold A/C, power everything, AM/FM/radio/cassette player, great condition, excellent vehicle for small family, JCI until Aug. 2005, \$2,200. Call CW03 Stocker at 253-3404 dwh or 253-2275 awh.

**Nissan Homy**, 1989, 9 pas-

senger, 4 new tires, newly charged air, fresh oil change, runs great, 2 sunroofs, blue, 6 disc CD player, automatic, P/W, JCI until Nov. 2005, \$2,000. Call Amy O'Brien at 253-2305.

**Subaru Impreza**, 1994, 4 door, silver, automatic, P/W, P/D, cold A/C, AM/FM/CD, great condition, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$2,500 obo. Call SSgt. Potter at 253-6776 dwh or 253-2553 awh.

**Toyota Livin**, 1992, new tires/battery, JCI until March 2005, \$800 obo. Call Bynd at 253-3323/4257 dwh or 253-7122 awh.

**Kawasaki 2X9R**, 1994, 900cc, not pretty but loads

of fun, includes a set of rims/tires/2 wind screens, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$3,000. Call Major Braund at 253-4584 dwh or 253-5705 awh.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc.**, Hoover vacuum cleaner, seldom used, \$25. Call Mark Nedzbala at 253-5353 dwh or 32-3109 awh.

### WANTED

**Wanted** Marine and Family Counseling Services is looking for community volunteers who are interested in assisting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Call 253-4526 or stop by the Community Services, Building 411,

Room 210 to pick up an application by Nov. 15.

### JOB OPENINGS

#### Education Office (253-3855)

The Education Office, Lifelong Learning Branch is looking for a test examiner. This is a nongovernment, full-time contract position. The applicant must have a degree in education or a related field from an accredited institution, two or more years of proctoring or administering exams, and be familiar with the DANTES testing and general military education programs. Applicants should submit a professional resume and cover letter before Sept. 17, 12 p.m. For more de-

tails, call Vicki Braun at 253-3855.

#### Chaplains Office (253-6460)

(The following jobs are open at the Marine Memorial Chapel)

-Catholic Director of Religious Education  
-Catholic Organist  
-Protestant Director of Religious Education  
-Gospel Keyboardist  
-Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service Music Director  
-Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service Organist

#### CHRO (253-6828)

**MCCS:**  
-Information, Referral and Relocation Coordinator  
-Supervisory Education Services Specialist  
**Logistics:**  
-Supply Management Officer  
**Facilities:**  
-Interdisciplinary Engineer

**S-6:**  
-Information Technology Specialist

#### Safety:

-Safety & Occupational Health Specialist  
**DECA:**  
-Customer Service Manager  
-Sales Store Checker (Intermittent)  
-Store Worker (Part-time)

#### MCCS (253-3030)

(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel MCCS Job Listing:

-Program Assistant, Child Development Center  
-Deputy Director Business Operations, Business Operations Administration  
-Head Of Retail, Main Complex  
-Duty Manager, Bachelor Housing  
-Food Service Worker, School Cafeteria  
-Recreation Attendant, Athletics, civilian only  
-Accounting Technician, Accounting, civilian only

# SAKURA THEATER



## HAROLD AND KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE

This movie follows two likeable underdogs who set out on a Friday night quest to satisfy their craving for White Castle hamburgers and end up on a mind-altering road trip of epic proportions. (87 minutes)



## MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

Marco and Shaw served during the Persian Gulf War, and were kidnapped by the enemy, and brainwashed to become pawns once they return home. Ten years later, Shaw is climbing the political ladder, as his mother's husband is a powerful senator. Marco remembers being brainwashed. Knowing that it's just a matter of time before Shaw is called to service by his handler, Marco contacts Shaw to try to get through to him before something terrible happens. (130 minutes)



## THE VILLAGE

Set in rural Pennsylvania in 1897, this is the story of the small village of Covington (population 60) surrounded by a woods inhabited by a race of "mythical creatures," and the romance that blossoms between Kitty, the daughter of the town's leader, and Lucius, a young man who questions the policy of keeping Covington's citizens completely confined to the village. (120 minutes)

### FRIDAY

7 p.m. The Notebook (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Harold And Kumar Go To White Castle (R)

### SATURDAY

1 p.m. Around The World In 80 Days (PG)  
4 p.m. A Cinderella Story (PG)  
7 p.m. Bourne Supremacy (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Harold And Kumar Go To White Castle (R)

### SUNDAY

4 p.m. Catwoman (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Collateral (R)

### MONDAY

7 p.m. The Notebook (PG-13)

### TUESDAY

7 p.m. Bourne Supremacy (PG-13)

### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Manchurian Candidate (R)

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. The Village (PG-13)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

### Test Schedule

**Tuesdays/Fridays** - CLEP, DSST  
**Wednesday** -DLAB  
**Thursday** -DLPT  
**September 22** -ASVAB  
**September 23** -EDPT  
**October 14** -ACT

For more information call 253-3855.

## CHRO

### CHRO Training

■ **New Employees Orientation:** Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 ■ **EEO Update For EEO Counselors:** Sept. 28-29, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and nomination, call 253-6828 or send e-mail to shiomuram.jp@iwakuni.usmc.mil. Classes will be held at Building one, Room 102.

## MCCS

### CRMC Classes (253-6439)

■ **Transition Assistance Program:** Monday through Sept. 17, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 ■ **Resume Writing:** Tuesday, 9-11 a.m.  
 ■ **Hello USA:** Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 ■ **Interviewing Skills:** Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

### Club Iwakuni (253-5416)

■ **Jah Works Reggae Live In Concert:** Thursday, 8 p.m. Free and all ranks in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. Adults only. Reggae bash featuring Jah Works and local DJs. Call 253-3727 for more details.

### MCX (253-5641)

■ **Alterations for Navy & Marine Corps Birthday Balls:** Get your uniforms and formal wear

altered now for the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Balls. Drop them off at the Starch & Stripes tailor shop located at the Marine Corps Exchange. The shop requires at least ten days to complete alterations. No rush orders can be taken. The shop is open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and can be reached at 253-4742, extension 218.

### School Age Center (253-4769)

■ **Hachigamine Recreational Park:** Sept. 18, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign-up before Wednesday at the School Age Center. Only 25 seats are available.

### Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **Cultural Exchange Trip to Labo International Awareness Club:** Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Teen Center is looking for 25 youth to visit the Japanese Awareness Club in Hiroshima. Sign-up before Sept. 20 at the Teen Center. Seats are limited.

### Single Marine Program (253-3891)

■ **Miyajima Sight-seeing:** Saturday, 10 a.m. \$10 transportation. Bring extra yen for the island ferry and lunch.  
 ■ **Dominos Tournament:** Sunday, 6 p.m. Prizes for first, second and third place winners.  
 ■ **Pizza Night:** Tuesday, 6 p.m. Lots of free pizza, soda, chips

and dip. Enter various tournaments for prizes.

■ **Shuhodo Caves and Yakniku:** Sept. 18, 8 a.m. \$20 transportation. Bring plenty of yen for admission, souvenirs and dinner.  
 ■ **Dinner at the Chicken Shack:** Sept. 19., 6 p.m. \$10 transportation. Bring at least ¥3,000 for dinner.

### Japanese Cooking Class - Tempura

Sept. 17, 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn how to make traditional tempura (food dipped in batter and deep-fried) from Japanese volunteers at the Iwakuni Health Center. Bring ¥500 for ingredients. Transportation is provided. Call 253-6165 to sign-up.

### Information Fair

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. Prizes given away by the sponsors. Call 253-4197 for more information.

### Summer Music Festival

Saturday, 6 p.m. at Penny Lake, open to all ages. Free food and entertainment for all. Free amusements for children are bouncers, Tigger the Tiger, and Peanuts the Elephant. In a case of rain, the event will be moved to the MAC Dome. For more details, call 253-3727.

### When Time-outs Don't Work

The class is held Oct. 27, 12-1 p.m. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. For more informa-

tion, call 253-6533.

## COMMUNITY

### Healthy Snacking

Come learn what the right foods can be. Call 253-4928 to register.

### Crime Stoppers

If you have any information pertaining to a crime please call "Crime Stoppers" at 253-3333. Crime Stoppers is an answering service designed for anonymous callers to give information that would assist the Provost Marshal's Office in solving and preventing crime.

### Thrift Store

The Thrift Store is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. and the last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Building 1117, located next to the Chapel. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. Call 253-4721 for more information.

### Iwakuni Toastmasters

Toastmasters (TM) International provides an excellent opportunity to learn and practice proper public speaking and invaluable leadership skills. The TM experience also looks very good on your resume. The class meets every 2nd Thursday evening and 4th Friday at lunch. Japanese with intermediate or better English skills are welcome. Call Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.

# President's challenge

GUNNERY SGT. MARK A. ZEID  
 Combat Correspondent



File photo

**With the President's Challenge, participants gain points for physical activity.**

For many people it is a challenge to exercise and to lose weight. Now it's a challenge for everyone here at Iwakuni.

Recently, Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni started the President's Challenge Program, which offers people of all ages and levels the opportunity to improve their health, physical fitness ability and earn prizes, as well as recognition.

"The program is the incentive to get you going towards new physical activity habits," explained Charla Truesdale, MCCS Fitness Coordinator.

"We have two programs, so that we can meet the needs of all fitness levels from the sedentary to the athletic," she continued.

The first program is the Presidential Adult Active Lifestyle Program, which is designed to get people to start exercising, stated Truesdale. The goal of this program is to exercise at least 30 minutes a day or walk 10,000 steps a day, at least five days a week, for a six-week period. (Pedometers, which can be used to measure the number of steps and are available at the MCCS Semper Fit health promotions office in the Iron Works Gym.) As Truesdale pointed out, this program is for those who aren't exercising regularly or are fairly sedentary.

While the program lasts for only six weeks, people can participate in it several times. The first time — those who successfully complete the program receive a certificate, patch, stickers and lapel pin. They get a tee shirt the second time they complete the program and a Semper Fit gym bag when they finish it the third time.

The second part of the President's Challenge is the champions program, which is for those who are already exercising, said Truesdale.

For this program, individuals earn points for their physical activity. The number of points varies depending on the exercise value of the activity. For

example, walking is five points per minute, running is 10 points per minute and weight lifting (body building) is seven points per minute. There are even point values for daily activities such as housecleaning and gardening (both are four points per minute). Therefore, someone who runs for 30 minutes and then cleans house for an hour can earn 300 points for running and 240 points for housecleaning, for a total of 540 points.

For the bronze level, participants need to earn 20,000 points within a six-week period. For the silver level, they need 30,000 points; and for the gold level, which is the highest level, they need 40,000 points. For all those who complete one of the three

levels, they receive a certificate, a medallion and a tee shirt.

Dennis Duck, (age 43, hometown Santa Fe, New Mexico) deputy director of MCCS and someone who earned a bronze award for the President's Champions Program, admitted he liked getting the awards and recognition immediately.

"I think it's terrific," exclaimed Duck. He thought it was great to have something to show for it after just six weeks.

He completed the program, and also lost more than 20 pounds because of it and dieting. "It's not just for weight loss," he stated, "It can meet all or your exercise needs."

Truesdale pointed out that people can start the program at anytime, but they must complete it within six calendar weeks. Anyone interested in joining the program can sign up for it at the MCCS Semper Fit health promotions office in the Iron Works Gym. Furthermore, those who complete the program are eligible for special raffle prizes.

This program gives everyone the chance to succeed and meet physical fitness goals while getting prizes and recognition. But that's not what it's about explained Truesdale. "The whole idea to encourage life style change."

## 2004-2005 MARINE CORPS AIR STATION WINTER RECREATIONAL BOWLING LEAGUE

The 2004-2005 Winter Recreational Bowling League Season is scheduled to begin Oct. 5. Entry forms for the league can be picked up from the Bowling Center. For more information, contact the Bowling Center staff at 253-3495.

### General:

1. All recreational leagues will be organized per the bylaws of the Iwakuni Inter Service Bowling Association (IISBA).

2. Due to the limited number of lanes available, tenant and station activities will be limited to a maximum of two (2) teams each. Only the first 30 teams to submit a roster will be accepted.

### Action:

The Bowling Center Manager, in conjunction with the Iwakuni Inter-Service Bowling Association, will be responsible for conducting the recreational bowling season.

1. The roster is limited to six (6) bowlers per team including team captain.

2. All entry forms are to be returned to the Southside Bowling Center Manager by the close of business on Sept. 29.

3. A mandatory team captains' meeting will be held at the Southside Bowling Center Oct. 1, 11 a.m.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

### Roman Catholic

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Mass
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass
	10:45 a.m.	CCD

### Protestant

Sunday	8 a.m.	Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowships
	11 a.m.	Gospel Worship Service

### Cooperative Chapel Ministries

3rd Saturday 8 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast

## LAY LED SERVICES

### Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Bible Study

### Seventh-Day Adventist

2nd & 4th Saturdays  
 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School/Worship

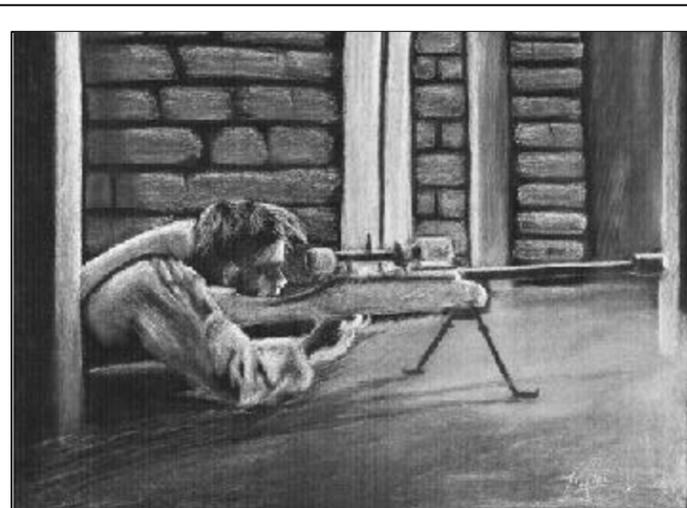
### Jewish

Every other Friday  
 6:30 p.m. Shabbat

### Latter Day Saints

Sunday	1 p.m.	Priesthood/RS Meeting
	2 p.m.	Sunday School
	3 p.m.	Sacrament

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/Chapel activity, call the Station Chapel at 253-5218.



Cpl. Annette Kyriakides

### Combat illustrators paint picture of war

A sniper attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., exchanges fire with Muqtada Militia snipers above the streets of An Najaf, Iraq. Continuous small arms, rocket propelled grenade and mortar fire sounded through the day as 11th MEU forces held their ground and pushed back the militia.

## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### MARINE CORPS CROSS COUNTRY RACE

Semper Fit seeks active duty male and female Marines to compete at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Dec. 11. The team will consist of five men and three women from each base. Resumes must be submitted to the Athletics Department no later than Wednesday and must include the dates, places and finish times of 8-kilometer and 5-kilometer runs completed within the past two years. Call 253-4605 for more details.

### TWO-MAN VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Coaches meet Sept. 22, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. The tournament is Sept. 25. For more information, call 253-5777.

### ANNUAL JAPANESE & AMERICAN GOODWILL SPRINT TRIATHLON

Sept. 26, 9 a.m. The Station and local residents compete in a 1.2K

open water swim, 36K bike race, and 10K run at the Slipway Picnic Pavilion. Application forms are available at the IronWorks Gym front desk. The Station residents and family members sign-up for \$20 for individuals, \$40 for a two-man, or \$60 for a three-man team. Team competitions are only open to S.O.F.A. status individuals. JMSDF, master labor contractor and indirect hire agreement workers sign-up for ¥5,000. Call 253-5654 for details.

### GLADIATORS ULTIMATE PT CHALLENGE

Oct. 15 at the IronWorks Gym Indoor Pool and Penny Lake Field. This all-day event is open to one team per unit, 10 competitors per team (two females), plus one coach. Sign-up before Oct. 8 and earn 25 points towards the President's Challenge Competition. Winners receive money for their unit party fund. For more information, call 253-6359.



Lance Cpl. Justin B. Watson, Marine Forces Japan Rifle Team member, snaps into the standing position in front of the 9th Engineer Support Battalion armory Aug. 31. The team won the 1,000-yard Division C match at the Interservice Rifle Championships held in Virginia, July 19-27.

## Marine Forces Japan Rifle Team on target

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE Cpl. ROSE A. MUTH  
Combat Correspondent

**CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan**—The eight-man Marine Forces Japan Rifle Team competed in the 43rd Annual Interservice Rifle Championships held in Quantico, Va., July 19-27 and won the 1,000-yard Division C match.

"It was such a close match between us and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego," said Sgt. Allan R. Anderson, MFJ Rifle Team member. "We won the match by three points. In a match that is as prestigious as the 1,000-yard match is; it was great to come out on top."

The championship showcased teams from every branch of service and was broken up into three divisions, according to Chief Warrant Officer-2 Martin Dankanich, MFJ Rifle Team commander.

Division A consisted of upper-level shooting teams such as the Marine Corps Rifle Team, Dankanich explained. Division B teams could compete with any type of rifle. Teams in this category usually use rifles with scopes. Division C consisted of small post or station teams.

The MFJ Rifle Team shot in Division C since the team was made up of smaller, separate teams from Okinawa.

The team members who participated in the championships were handpicked by Dankanich from across the island or scouted from various other competitions.

"I was asked to be part of the team after winning a silver medal at the 2004 Far Eastern Division Matches," said Sgt. Andres M. Urban, MFJ Rifle Team member. "This was my first time shooting with this team, but I felt honored to compete at the championships."

To train for the competition, the teammates used their spare time and energy to deliver top-level performances.

"We trained from mid-May through July,"

Dankanich said. "We could only train on Saturdays because (the team members) all live and work on different bases."

The team members also had to adjust to shooting a national match M-16 rifle, Dankanich explained. The national match rifle has the same sights as a standard rifle, but it weighs 15-20 pounds more than the standard Marine Corps-issued M-16A2 service rifle. The rifle also sports lead weights in the hand guards and a lead wedge in the butt stock to add stability.

For the team to get settled in and gain more practice time, the team members arrived a few days before the competition for the Virginia Regional National Rifle Association match.

"We used the Virginia match as a warm up before the actual championship," said Dankanich.

All of the hard work paid off for the team, which beat the other teams in the interservice match by just a few points.

"When you can pull different people of different backgrounds together in a short period of time and meet with success, that is victory," Dankanich said. "Winning a medal is secondary to training a better rifleman."



Sgt. Allan R. Anderson, Marine Forces Japan Rifle Team member, aims in on his target and practices proper breathing techniques in front of the 9th Engineer Support Battalion armory Aug. 31.



Lance Cpl. Justin B. Watson (left), and Sgt. Allan R. Anderson, Marine Forces Japan Rifle Team members, lay in the prone position to practice proper sight alignment/sight picture in front of the 9th Engineer Support Battalion armory Aug. 31.