



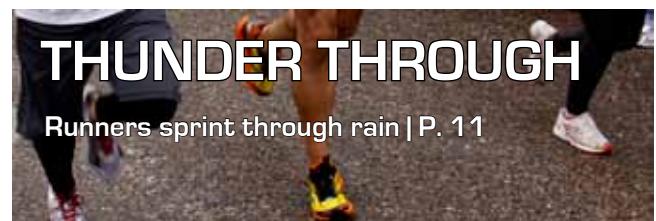
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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 10 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Cultural mix, Japanese culture upon station

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A strong presence of Japanese culture came aboard the station with the aid of the Japanese American Society here March 4.

The event, held in the Matthew C. Perry School cafeteria, attracted many American and Japanese attendants.

"We enjoy sharing our culture," said Miho Fukuda, JAS vice president. "We're so happy to have Americans of all ages attend and experience what Japanese culture has to offer."

Attendees experienced Japanese culture at a number of stations including origami, a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, Japanese calligraphy, flower arrangement, a playland area for kids and Japanese food samples of tonjirou and sushi rice.

"The JAS has been bringing Japanese culture to Americans for 50 years," said Duanne Cole, JAS president. "The Japanese who come here and set these events up do so at no cost. They do it simply because they want to share their culture."

Not only were there stations set up for cultural knowledge and food, but also performances.

The proceedings started with a Japanese tea ceremony, followed by a Taiko drum performance, then Kagura-Yamata no Oroch.

Kagura, meaning "god-entertainment," refers to a type of theatrical dance. "Yamata no Orochi" means "8-branched giant snake," or Orochi, translated to eight-forked serpent in English, a legendary eight-headed, eight-tailed dragon.

"I hope everyone will enjoy the dragon dance," said Fukuda.

Spectators of all ages watched the dance and gazed in wonder at the fluid movements of the dragon costumes as they spun and twirled, shooting fire from their mouths.

"I really had a fun time," said Madie Peet, 6, from M.C. Perry Elementary School. "It was a little scary when the dragons spit fire, but I really liked it."

The smiling faces of adults and children shined throughout the room as the dragon dance went on.

Participants departed with smiles and full bellies, evident from empty platters of Japanese food and empty water jugs. The event left everyone with a better appreciation and understanding of Japanese culture.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

One of the dragons in the dragon dance curled up during the Japanese American Society culture event here March 4. Participants were able to experience Japanese culture thanks to visiting Japanese nationals.

Change of plans creates live fire opportunities

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines from Combat Logistics Company 36, Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 arrived at Camp Fuji, Japan, by way of a High Speed Vessel for Forest Light, a training exercise teaching advanced cold weather infantry tactics Feb. 27.

CLC-36, CLR-35 and CLR-37 Marines departed Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to teach Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces cold weather infantry tactics. The Marines trained for weeks prior to joining the JGSDF in exercise Forest Light, a semi-annual training exercise in Hokkaido.

Due to unfavorable sea conditions, the HSV could not proceed to the planned training grounds. The Marines quickly adapted to the situation, constructed a plan and traveled to the Combined Arms Training Center at Camp Fuji to complete their mission.

SEE PLANS ON PAGE 3

Silver Eagles surge over Iwakuni

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, also known as the Silver Eagles, tore through cloudy skies for a scheduled surge day here Feb. 29.

"As surge day is a test of our abilities to perform as many sorties as we would expect in a mission given to us from Marine Aircraft Group 12," said Master Sgt. William E. Hetrick Jr., VMFA-115 maintenance chief. "We test ourselves with surge days. It really pushes our Marines to be their best at what they do."

Along with pushing the Silver Eagles to their limit, a surge day also provides an excellent training ground to complete

annual certifications and military occupation specialty requirements.

"This is a great way to show just what the Silver Eagles can do if we are tasked with a mission," said Hetrick. "We are constantly striving for perfection and mission readiness."

The F/A-18A pilots trained in close-air-support, air-to-air and air-to-ground tactics to complete their certifications, qualifications and requirements while the maintenance Marines went about the flightline to catch, repair, refuel and launch aircraft to ensure a steady flow of sorties.

The average goal for sorties flown during a surge day is anywhere from 20 to 30. With eight aircraft and approximately 30 maintainers,

SEE SURGE ON PAGE 3



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The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'March forward with your family'

Lt. J.G. TRAVIS E. COFFEY
MAG-12 DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

What guidance is available to help us build a healthy family? A healthy family is one that sustains, supports and nourishes each person in that family. A healthy family, with good family values, is able to utilize the resources available to develop strong trusting and caring bonds between each family member. Parenting, with a balance of joy and celebration without forsaking discipline and instruction, is the key. But first things first. A family that is parented by a happily married couple allows the other people in that family to be able to express themselves more freely. Meaning, they will not be afraid to speak, and what they say won't be filtered through the problems of uncertainty. A blissful marriage seems to set the tone in the home, the rearing of children and the effectiveness of how the family impacts the people around them. Having a wholesome, balanced and joyful atmosphere as the foundation of the family will effectively spill over into the community and allow that family to reach out and help others. A healthy, happy family tends not to isolate themselves from the rest of the world, but to enjoy it in an expressive, nurturing nature.

Some important elements of a healthy family system with good family values include: parents, cohesion, flexibility and communication. Parents in a strong family set the tone and should be good role models and lead by example. Parents should not be afraid to reach out to community, extended family and friends and be able to teach their children the importance of doing the same. This sense of community will become a big part of who their children are. When parents work together to solve problems, either together or with community, the next generation will pick up on this and retain these skills as they grow.

Cohesion- Cohesion is the ability to stick to it and stay together. Cohesion in the family is a sense of belonging, a feeling of being loved, and being nurtured by that family. A balance between being together and being separate must always be kept, no matter how close the family is. A sense of support and confidence from the family allows a person to develop their individuality. Spending quality time together and investing in each member brings and keeps a family together.

Good decision making is a very important thing for families to teach their children. One of the easiest ways to do this is by example. If you make good decisions throughout the early years and continue through their teens, your children will see this and will tend to be good decision makers themselves.

Let us all strive together to have and promote healthy families. The whole community can benefit from them! It is hard work, so let's encourage each other with patience and support and keep the destination in focus of your children growing up to live healthy, balanced and productive lives and have their own healthy family one day.

THE STATION SPOTLIGHT

LANCE CPL. RYAN J. HONAKER

MOS: 1141, Electrician
Unit: Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Age: 20
Hometown: FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
Date Joined: JANUARY 11, 2011



Why did you decide to serve in the military?

I wanted to better myself, serve my country and go to college.

Who inspired you to join the military?

A retired lieutenant colonel in my neighborhood inspired me. We talked a lot and he gave me the inspiration to enlist.

What are your major accomplishments and lessons learned while in the military?

Major achievements and lessons learned would have to be completing bootcamp and marrying my wife.

Why did you choose your MOS?

I didn't originally choose this, but I have learned a lot of helpful skills that I use every day. I like my MOS, because I get to work with generators.

What do you do that makes you stand out from your peers?

I do my job. You can always learn something from helping people out.

PLANS FROM PAGE 1

"We experienced some issues with transportation up to Hokkaido, however we are still able to complete the platoon and company-level training which we were hoping to accomplish," said Capt. Charles R. Johnston, CLC-36 executive officer.

A different training schedule was put into effect based on the training originally planned in Hokkaido.

"This new training program will be more Marine Corps oriented, whereas in Hokkaido it would have been based around a give-and-take method where the JGSDF teach us and we teach them our tactics," said Johnston. "On the other side, we will be able to show these Marines a different side of the Marine Corps and allow them to do things they see in movies and the newspaper."

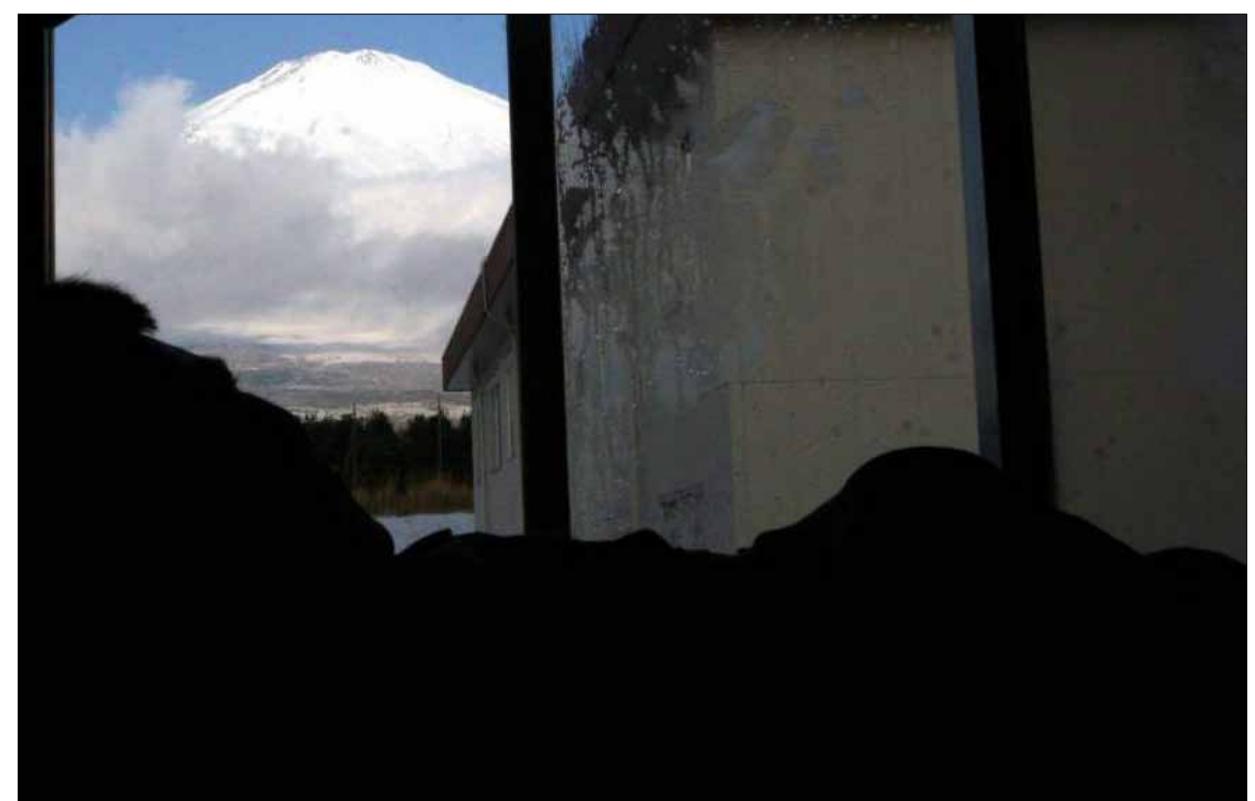
The training slated for these Marines will incorporate much of the training they have been doing throughout the past weeks.

"We set up the new training schedule to make sure Marines who have been training hard toward this particular type of exercise don't allow their new skill set to go to waste," said Johnston.

The Marines of CLC-36, CLR-35 and CLR-37 have been working toward a main objective of using platoon-size movements in support of a company-size element attacking an objective.

"Our main mission is to get these Marines some great training which they may never get to experience again," said Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Lawson, CLC-36 maintenance chief.

"These Marines usually work in warehouses and garages. Now they are all working together in armories, motor pools and, most



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
Mount Fuji looms in the background as a Marine rests and takes in the scenery after completing a troop movement to Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, Feb. 28. The Marines were originally scheduled to travel to Hokkaido to perform extreme cold weather training but had to adapt to the weather conditions on the seas. The cold weather exercise allows Marines a chance to perfect their military occupational specialties and practice infantry tactics in a cold field environment.

importantly, the field."

The training and classes they received based around an infantry platoon helped to perfect their skills.

"We have land navigation, communication classes, platoon and company size movements, and a machine gun live fire range along with more infantry-based training scheduled for

these Marines," said Lawson.

The Marines of CLC-36, CLR-35 and CLR-37 are each expected to perform platoon-sized movements to support their combined company during the duration of the exercise which will train these Marines in extreme cold weather tactics and deliver an opportunity many Marines never see.

SURGE FROM PAGE 1

VMFA-115 Marines were able to push out more than 32 safe and successful sorties in one regular workday.

"The reason for this kind of training is to help our brothers on the ground if we are called to action in this area of operations," said Hetrick.

The air operations and exercises the pilots perform are what makes the Silver Eagles fly as proud as they do, but the VMFA-115 maintenance Marines are the blood in the veins of the squadron who keep the training moving.

"Our aircraft are more than a few years old, but we keep them up to par with the newest fighters right off the line," said Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Williams, a VMFA-115 aircraft mechanic.

The maintenance Marines worked on aircraft after aircraft to meet the requirements of the squadron, the mission and their certifications.

At the end of the day, the Silver Eagle pilots and maintenance Marines proved the mutual respect they share for each other goes beyond the bounds of maintaining aircraft and flying sorties.

"The pilots put a lot of faith in our abilities to maintain the aircraft," said Williams. "I think that shows we are more than a squadron. It shows we are a family."



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
Cpl. Clayton Kavanaugh, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 aircraft mechanic, signals the VMFA-115 F/A-18A flagship to fly another sortie during a surge day here Feb. 29. The surge proved VMFA-115 Silver Eagles' and supporting commands' abilities to support rapid, sustained operations.

African-American history through the years

LANCE CPL.
BENJAMIN PRYER
Iwakuni Approach Staff

Station residents came together for the final two events of black history month, the culmination luncheon in the Club Iwakuni dining room and the living wax museum in the station library, here Feb. 29.

The culmination luncheon, presented by the Iwakuni Black History Community Group, was a chance to thank those who participated in the events throughout the month and to present awards and letters of appreciation to those who earned them.

For its annual theme, this year's black history month focused on African-American women and their contributions to American history and culture.

After handing out awards, a slideshow played to honor past and present prominent African-American women in history.

Later in the day, students from Matthew C. Perry Elementary and High School dressed up to represent famous African-Americans throughout the years, acting as personal tour guides into the lives of whom they represented. "The goal of this event was to share information and knowledge in a fun and entertaining way," said Netra Harwell, M.C. Perry Elementary educational technologist. "I want people to walk away with knowledge, not just about (African-American) history, but about American history and how the two are woven together."

Station residents toured the library, stopping and listening as each student recited an informative short speech about the life, struggles and achievements of the person whom they portrayed.

"This is important for the (children)," said Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 sergeant major. "It gives them the opportunity to learn about historical African-Americans, both in the past and present, give them a strong appreciation for their culture and give them the opportunity to give back to the community because not only are they educating themselves, they're educating everyone here."



Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 sergeant major, bows his head during the benediction prayer at the Black History Month Culmination Luncheon in the Club Iwakuni dining room here Feb. 29. The culmination luncheon and living wax museum exhibit were the last two events the Iwakuni Black History Community Group held for this year's Black History Month, which focused primarily on African American women in American history and culture.



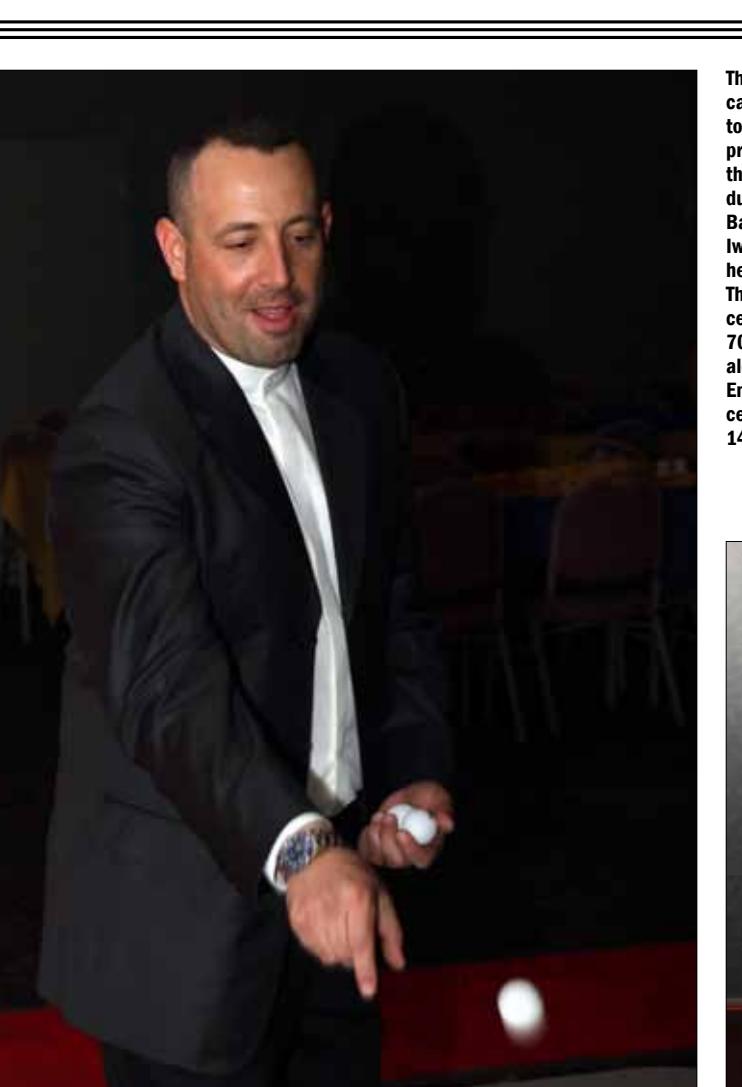
Sierra Charleston, Matthew C. Perry Elementary School student, portrays Shirley Chrisholm at the Black History Month Living Wax Museum in the building 411 library here Feb. 29. The culmination luncheon and living wax museum exhibit were the last two events the Iwakuni Black History Community Group held for this year's Black History Month, which focused primarily on African American women in American history and culture.



Netra Harwell, Matthew C. Perry Elementary School educational technologist, takes a video of her daughter, Rebekah Harwell, Matthew C. Perry High School student, at the Black History Month Living Wax Museum in the building 411 library here Feb. 29. The culmination luncheon and living wax museum exhibit were the last two events the Iwakuni Black History Community Group held for this year's Black History Month, which focused primarily on African American women in American history and culture. The culmination luncheon, presented by the Iwakuni Black History Community Group, was a chance to thank those who participated in the events throughout the month and to present awards and letters of appreciation to those who earned them.



Jatoya Lathem, Matthew C. Perry High School student, portrays Shirley Chrisholm at the Black History Month Living Wax Museum in the building 411 library here Feb. 29. The culmination luncheon and living wax museum exhibit were the last two events the Iwakuni Black History Community Group held for this year's Black History Month, which focused primarily on African American women in American history and culture.



The birthday cake dedicated to the Seabees presented toward the end of the night during the Seabee Bash at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here March 2. The Seabees celebrated their 70th anniversary along with the Civil Engineer Corps, who celebrated their 140th anniversary.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



Guests of the Seabee bash plays the chipping game at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here March 2. The Seabees celebrated their 70th anniversary along with the Civil Engineer Corps, who celebrated their 140th anniversary.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Seabees celebrate 70th Birthday Ball, party all night

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Seabees aboard the station celebrated their 70th anniversary birthday at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here March 2.

The event celebrated both the Seabees' 70th birthday and the Navy Civil Engineer Corps' 140th birthday.

The Seabees were originally part of the Civil Engineer Corps until the 1940s, when they were recognized as their own branch of the Civil Engineer Corps.

The Seabees invited everyone aboard the station to come and dress in attire from their favorite decade.

"There may be only a few of us aboard station, but we want to show everyone that Seabees really know how to party," said Cmdr. Jason D. Zeda, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron facilities officer.

The traditional blue and gold colors of the Navy lavishly decorated the ball room.

In the center of the room, patrons gazed upon the Seabee mascot, a blue and gold bee holding a machine gun as well as several construction tools, such as a hammer and saw.

The event ended without a hitch, every patron leaving with a smile and a newfound respect for the history and deeds of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps.

when the hymn began to play everyone could sing along.

The attendees also played games built by the Seabees. Each game had a different achievable goal.

One required players to use a golf club to chip a golf ball into one of several buckets only a few feet away.

The other was set up on a table and had glass mugs set at different heights on miniature shelves.

Players had to try to bounce a ping-pong ball from the table into the mug.

"Building games is a common tradition amongst the Seabees," said Petty Officer 3rd Class William M. Svoboda, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron facilities builder.

"There is no specific design to these games. It's just whatever you can imagine to put together with what you can find."

Toward the end of the night, a giant birthday cake rolled out to celebrate the Seabees' and Civil Engineer Corps anniversaries.

Lastly, local Japanese businesses that donated money to the Seabees bash received plaques in thanks.

The event ended without a hitch, every patron leaving with a smile and a newfound respect for the history and deeds of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Guests of the Seabee bash talk about the night's events at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here March 2. The Seabees celebrated their 70th anniversary along with the Civil Engineer Corps, who celebrated their 140th.

Guests of the Seabee bash indulge in some of the hors d'oeuvres at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here March 2. The Seabees celebrated their 70th anniversary and the Civil Engineer Corps celebrated their 140th.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

All clear, Marines secure base



Sgt. Anthony Klein, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer (back), instructs MWSS-171 combat engineers on how to properly enter a tent before clearing it during a patrolling exercise here Feb. 18. MWSS-171 Marines and sailors practice patrolling exercises in order to ensure mission effectiveness in a combat environment.



Lance Cpl. Donald Lomax, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment operator, fireman-carries Lance Cpl. Brianna Slowikowski, MWSS-171 combat engineer portraying an injured Marine, as part of MWSS-171's patrolling exercise here Feb. 18. MWSS-171 Marines and sailors practice patrolling exercises in order to ensure mission effectiveness in a combat environment.



Staff Sgt. W. Bazile, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment mechanic, (left) instructs Cpl. Jose J. Briones (center) and Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Treme, MWSS-171 combat engineers, during a patrolling exercise at the flightline here Feb. 18. MWSS-171 Marines and sailors practice patrolling exercises in order to ensure mission effectiveness in a combat environment.



Cpl. Jose J. Briones, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer, peers around a corner to check for enemy threats during a patrolling exercise here Feb. 18. MWSS-171 Marines and sailors practice patrolling exercises in order to ensure mission effectiveness in a combat environment.

Every Marine a rifleman, engineers learn to patrol

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Combat Engineers Operations Company Marines conducted patrols aboard the station here Feb. 29.

Patrol training is a way for non-infantry Marines to adapt to an infantry roll in a combat situation, should the need arise.

"These Marines aren't grunts, but they may one day find themselves in a combat situation and need to adapt to the circumstances of their environment," said Staff Sgt. W. Bazile, MWSS-171 heavy equipment mechanic.

During the patrol, the MWSS-171 Marines and sailors trained for several scenarios, including taking contact from enemy forces, patrolling in urban environments and large open areas, how to maneuver through and across danger areas, and how to evacuate a casualty and call in air support. Some of the tactics used to maneuver obstacles were bounding and "pieing" windows and doors as the Marines moved past them.

Several times throughout the patrol, Bazile kept the Marines readily alert by calling out contact from any direction, calling air raids and even designating a casualty to show the Marines the proper way to conduct a casualty evacuation.

"We need to make sure these Marines are ready for anything," said Bazile. "Danger

or any type of threat can come at any time in a combat zone."

The layout of the patrol area consumed a large part of the station, including the old flightline.

"I studied every part of this base to come up with a good training route," said Bazile.

According to Sgt. Orly N. Malabanan, MWSS-171 engineer operations company heavy equipment operator, many challenges were overcome to train the Marines on proper infantry techniques, to have the best patrol route available and to use rubber rifles for a more realistic training experience.

"I give credit to (Staff Sgt.) Bazile and (Sgt.) Malabanan," said Master Sgt. Chris J. Mifflin, MWSS-171 combat engineer operations chief. "They set up the training, did the research and executed the plan alongside other noncommissioned officers throughout the company. I am confident now that if we are called to do this in a real-life combat situation, we would be able to provide security and support other mission-essential tasks."

No matter what one's military occupational specialty may be, there comes a time when that Marine may find himself in a combat environment. The training provided to these combat engineers will help prepare them for such an event.



Cpl. Jose J. Briones (Left) and Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Treme (Right), Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineers, call for grid coordinates during a patrolling exercise here Feb. 18. MWSS-171 Marines and sailors practice patrolling exercises in order to ensure mission effectiveness in a combat environment.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

There's no place like a patrol base

CPL. REECE LODDER
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

PATROL BASE BURY, Afghanistan — Their humble home is exceptionally primitive, but it's all the deployed infantrymen need.

Patrol Base Bury, a tiny base contained by concertina wire and giant Hesco barriers, is the humble home of Marines with 3rd Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during their seven-month deployment to Helmand province's Garmsir district.

This deployment has brought them far from home in both distance and circumstance.

At Bury, the 3rd Platoon Marines live and work with the Afghan National Police. They mentor the ANP in a partnered combat operations center and patrol with them in and around the nearby Safar Bazaar, Garmsir's busiest commercial center.

Every moment of every day, Marines protect the base by standing security posts. Their duties are challenging, repetitive and tedious. When they complete a day's work, they can't return home to their families, a home-cooked meal or a hot shower. They return to Bury.

"When our work is done, we look forward to coming back here and enjoying each other's company," said Lance Cpl. Jeremy Landers, a 21-year-old rifleman with 3rd Platoon, and native of Tucson, Ariz. "We've been here for a while ... it's home now."

Safe within their slice of heaven, the grunts unwind.

"Things get repetitive at this point in the deployment, but we find things to kill time and

stay levelheaded," Landers said. "Refreshing helps us stay concentrated and focused on getting everyone home safely."

Several Marines filter into a ragtag gym, pumping iron to the sweet sounds of a fast-paced melody which they claim is rock music. A group of four stands in the makeshift kitchen, joking and reminiscing about their last deployment.

"We spend a lot of our down time just standing around talking," said Lance Cpl. Tom Morton, a 23-year-old team leader with 3rd Platoon, and native of Nashville, Tenn. "You think we'd run out of things to talk about after spending four months with the same people, but somehow we always find something new."

Though Bury's combat kitchen is a popular place for the Kilo Company Marines to converse, it's also the grounds for one of their favorite down time activities. Here they concoct creative cuisine using items they've drawn from Meals, Ready to Eat and care packages.

"I grew up having only a little; a lot of us did," said Lance Cpl. Michael Hogan, a 20-year-old rifleman with 3rd Platoon, and native of Columbus, Ohio. "We're used to doing the best with what we've been given."

Seated on his green fold-up cot in an unheated tent, Hogan relaxes by disappearing into his sketchpad, pencilizing down an idea for his next tattoo. Three of his friends huddle around a glowing laptop on a cot behind him, chuckling at a cheesy comedy show.

"When we move on, we're going to scatter to the wind all over the country and many of us will lose contact ... but we'll still remember the times we had here," Morton said.

whine about what they don't have; they take pride in their humble circumstances.

"Life may be simple here, but it's fulfilling," Morton said. "We learn to adapt and solve problems; to use whatever we've got to make the best life we can."

They are masters in contentment, cleaning themselves with only water bottles and baby wipes, handwriting letters to their loved ones and using the rare opportunity to call home from a nearby combat outpost.

"Things like not being able to take a real shower become of a part of life here," Hogan said. "I don't take things like this for granted anymore."

The 3rd Platoon Marines may have little in tangible form, but they are rich in shared experience. Without fail, they have the men to their left and right.

"I've got the best friends I've ever had with me here at Bury," Hogan said. "Living like this sometimes sucks, but at the same time, it makes us smile. We're building memories."

At night, they lay their heads to rest in their dusty tents. They sleep, rise and repeat the grind of an infantryman — together.

"The kind of bond you develop on deployment is hard to express to someone who hasn't experienced something like this ... nothing can compare to the camaraderie we build here," Morton said. "We spend so much time together on a consecutive basis that we learn each other's tendencies, habits and preferences to the degree. No matter what situation I'm in, I know my fellow Marines have my back."

In this challenging cycle, the Marines of PB Bury — a mishmash of races, cultures, experiences and personalities — have formed an unbreakable bond.

"When we move on, we're going to scatter to the wind all over the country and many of us will lose contact ... but we'll still remember the times we had here," Morton said.

Even though they don't have the comforts of showers, internet, phones or even a port-a-potty, the Marines are happy. They don't



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Short, a 24-year-old corpsman with 3rd Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and native of Aurora, Colo., tends to Afghan National Police patrolman Mir Wali's head wound here, Feb. 26, after Wali was injured in a motorcycle accident. Patrol Base Bury, a tiny base contained by concertina wire and giant Hesco barriers, is the humble home of 3rd Platoon Marines during their seven-month deployment to Helmand province's Garmsir district. When they finish long days of patrolling and standing post, the Marines don't return to the comfort of showers, internet, phones or even a port-a-potty. They happily return to the simplicity of PB Bury, where they spend their down time forging friendships, working out, watching movies, cooking and reading.

CPL. REECE LODDER

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Tsunami warning siren tests

The city of Iwakuni will sound warning sirens when a tsunami is near. In order to provide widest dissemination of the warning siren, the city has scheduled practice sirens beginning March 11 at 2:46 p.m. The sirens will sound 10 times for five seconds each with a six second break in between sirens.

OSC Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for OSC scholarships. Graduating seniors or spouses can apply by sending an e-mail to iwkunischolarship@hotmail.com. Deadline for submissions is April 14.

Marine A-4 Skyhawk Reunion

Marine A-4 Skyhawk Reunion, in conjunction with the MCAA Symposium and Centennial Celebrations, is scheduled for May 16-19 at the Gaylord National Hotel, Oxon Hill, MD. All drivers, maintainers and aficionados are welcome. For more information, contact Mark Williams at rodger.wilco@comcast.net.

Iwakuni Roadrunners

All servicemembers and civilians are welcome. Runs are Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Meeting place is in front of Crossroads Mall. Time and length of runs vary. All drivers, maintainers and aficionados are welcome. For more information, visit "Iwakuni Roadrunners" Facebook page.

Thrift Store Changes

The Marine Thrift Store has new management and new hours. Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 - 6:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Open to active duty military in uniform Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays.

Thrift Store Volunteers

Volunteer positions available. Applicants should be outgoing, willing to have fun and highly motivated. We are also looking for a board member treasurer with book keeping experience. Board members and store volunteers must attend all store meetings. All positions are volunteer, non-compensated positions. For more information, call Patty or Sharon at 253-4711 or e-mail thrift_store@yahoo.com.

Off-limit Establishments

The following establishments are hereby off-limits:

- The multi-tenant building "NOW," Tenant occupant's names change frequently. Past names for this building include, Ran, Massage Parlor, Welcome American, Follow Me and F-18.
- Hiroshima's Tougan Goods Company.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing 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 \$300, 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.

Iwakuni is now on Facebook

The Iwakuni Approach now has a Facebook page. Updates will be made consistently along with content only available on Facebook. The page welcomes classified ads posted on the wall. Staff will choose ads weekly to be featured in the Iwakuni Approach paper. A larger selection of photos from

covered stories will also be available and free for those pictured to tag themselves. Visit www.facebook.com/theiwakuniapproach

Jobs

Dental Assistant

The 11th Dental Clinic is now accepting applications for a full-time dental assistant. Certification of qualification is required. For more information, call 253-5252.

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 advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process and ensure. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis.

Kuni Toons!



SUBMITTED BY GUNNERY SGT. BRYCE R. PIPER

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
Tues. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass

Protestant
2nd & 4th Saturday 10:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath meeting

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult

Bible study
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy Communion Service (Small Chapel)

Tuesday 9 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday 5:45 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
1st & 3rd Thursday 9:30 a.m. MOPS

Church of Christ
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)
10:30 a.m. Service Fellowship

Teen Programs
• High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12)
• Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8)
• HS&JR Bible Studies
• Retreats
• Service Projects
• Missions Trip
• Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring

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

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Fugu, also known as blowfish, is best eaten during the winter season. Fugu is a delicious but sometimes deadly food celebrated in Japan.

During the fugu season the Fugu come closer to Japanese shorelines and therefore are easier to catch. The Japanese like to eat Fugu fried, in stews or other hot dishes.

Fugu has many different names. There is fuku, meaning happiness, as well as teppo, meaning rifle or gun because if the poison is ingested, you go to heaven.

Fugu is extremely rich in fiber and



A SHOAL OF FISHES FUGU YELLOWTAIL, 1832, BY UTAGAWA HIROSHIGE, PUBLIC DOMAIN



FUGU SASHIMI, 2008, GNU FREE DOCUMENTATION LICENSE

elastic and therefore extremely hard to chew. Japanese like the tough meat of the fugu. The hard meat is the reason fugu is cut in slices so thin you can see through it. The most common dish is of a round shape with thin slices of fugu on it. The poison of the fugu is extremely dangerous and is the cause of several deaths each year in Japan, though almost always through improper preparation of fugu at home. Only certified chefs are allowed to prepare fugu in restaurants.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 9, 2012
7 p.m. The Darkest Hour (PG-13)
10 p.m. Haywire (R)

Monday, March 12, 2012
7 p.m. Contraband (R)

Saturday, March 10, 2012
4 p.m. Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG)
7 p.m. Act of Valor (R)

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Theater closed

Sunday, March 11, 2012
4 p.m. Adventures of Tintin (PG)
7 p.m. Act of Valor (PG-13)

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Theater closed

Thursday, March 15, 2012
7 p.m. Act of Valor

253-5291

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 ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday:
Corn chowder, Chinese barbecue diced pork, red pepper glazed fish, pork fried rice, steamed rice, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, long johns, banana muffin, lemon meringue, devil's food cake, chocolate butter cream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait

Tuesday:
Corn chowder, sukiyaki, barbecue beef cubes, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, cauliflower parmesan, southern style greens, cream gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, long johns, banana muffin, lemon meringue, devil's food cake, chocolate butter cream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait

Wednesday:
French onion soup, Swiss steak w/brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage w/bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, long johns, banana muffin, lemon meringue, devil's food cake, chocolate butter cream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait

Thursday:
New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas w/onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, banana cake, macadamia choc chunks, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait

Friday:
Tomato soup, fried catfish, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, Franconia potatoes, steamed pasta, succotash, broccoli parmesan, mushroom gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, cinnamon rolls, quick French coffee cake, blueberry pie, carrot cake, cream cheese frosting, chocolate chip cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait



The "Million Dollar Marathoner," a Japanese runner, sprints past spectators during the 6th annual Kintai Road Race near the Kintai Bridge Sunday. More than 2,200 running enthusiasts, including more than 30 Marines, sailors and station residents, competed in a unique cultural experience between two athletic cultures.



Victor T. Delafleur, a station runner, jogs with Japanese runners during the 6th annual Kintai Road Race near the Kintai Bridge Sunday. More than 2,200 running enthusiasts, including more than 30 Marines, sailors and station residents, competed in a unique cultural experience between two athletic cultures.



Run enthusiasts sprint through bleak weather

Joseph A. Pacentrilli, a station runner, is cheered on by spectators during the 6th annual Kintai Road Race near the Kintai Bridge Sunday. More than 2,200 running enthusiasts, including more than 30 Marines, sailors and station residents, competed in a unique cultural experience between two athletic cultures.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY
LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

More than 2,200 running enthusiasts came out for the 6th annual Kintai Road Race near the Kintai Bridge in Iwakuni, Japan, Sunday.

Friendly competition seemed to outweigh the bleak weather conditions, which would have otherwise put a damper on such a massive race.

"I was cold, wet and miserable at the start of the day," said Luke Peet, a station runner.

"After the shot went off to start, everything got better. Running has that effect on me."

"I had a fun rivalry during the race with this Japanese couple who were running next to me," said Amanda M. Steele, a half marathon runner. "We kept smiling every time we got in front of each other. This was my first marathon and having motivation

no one should miss."

The race consisted of four categories: a half marathon of 22 kilometers and 10km run for adults, and a 5km and 2km runs for children.

The station runners, though few in number, proved their mettle to the thousands of Japanese in attendance. The American athletes did not stop or walk during the race. The runners simply ran and enjoyed each other's company.

"I just want to be a bridge for the American servicemembers and station residents to enjoy Japanese culture," Tajima said.

"Running on a treadmill in the gym gets boring. The area around the Kintai Bridge is beautiful and having a chance to be around other runners is an opportunity

like that to keep going, not to mention all the spectators cheering us on, really inspired me to sign up for more races down the road."

Friendly competition seemed to outweigh the bleak weather conditions, which would have otherwise put a damper on such a massive race.

"I was cold, wet and miserable at the start of the day," said Luke Peet, a station runner. "After the shot went off to start, everything got better. Running has that effect on me."

Peet and the other runners competed in the half marathon. The other races started later, so all the marathon participants could end the race at around the same time. The weather and long

distance running didn't stop a single competitor from getting from the starting line to the finish line.

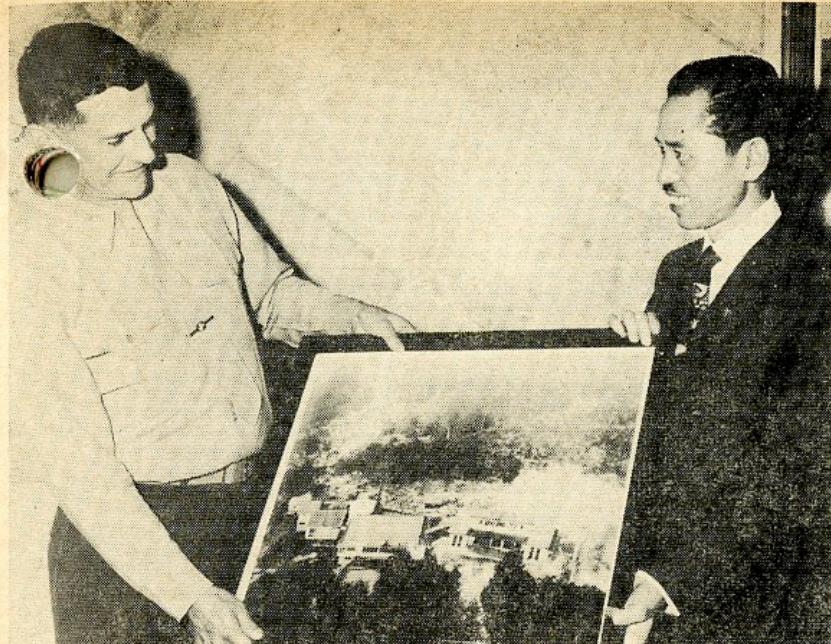
Two and a half hours after the start of the half marathon, a steady stream of runners numbering in the thousands ran into the Yokoyama to cross the finish line and congratulate each other on a race well run.

"I didn't come in first, but I'm ok with that," said Steele. "For this being my first marathon, I think I did pretty good."

With a few more miles of black top under their belts, and a new outlook on Japanese athletic culture, the station runners said farewell and *arigato* to their new friends.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the March 13, 1961 edition of "The Torii Teller," Marines reported a new promotion-testing policy was beginning, uniforms were seasonal vice green utilities year round, changes were made to meritorious promotions and runway construction was 8 percent ahead of schedule. This week's feature article included Marine Corps Air Facility preventive medicine and its importance in Iwakuni.



PRESENTO --- An aerial shot of the Reverend Shimo Orphanage, located high in the mountains of Hiroshima Prefecture, is presented to Mayor Kozo Yasui of Saiki Town by Col Arthur C. Lowell, Commanding Officer MCAF, Mar. 8. The orphanage, adopted by MWSG-17, has received needed help from the Marines of the Group during the past year.

Four New Officers Assume Staff Billets In 1stMAW

The First Marine Aircraft Wing has appointed four new Wing Staff officers. Two are ground officers here under the new exchange program and two are air officers.

Colonel Wayne M. Cargill arrived here Mar. 5 from the North American Air Defense Command, Colorado Springs, Colo., to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff.

The 22-year veteran flyer, and a native of Kimball, Nebraska, is a holder of the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Medal with six Stars.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Bruder, who reported here from the First Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., became the new Assistant G-1 upon relieving LtCol Roland H. Makowski, Feb. 26. LtCol Makowski's new duty assignment is with Headquarters, Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. A native of Staatsburg, N. Y., LtCol Bruder assumed his new duties here Feb. 19. When asked his opinion of the exchange program the colonel had this to say, "I am well satisfied with my assignment to the Wing. It is an opportunity that very few ground officers get and I feel it is bound to increase my knowledge of how ground and air personnel operate as a team."

Lieutenant Colonel Robert V. Perkins has taken over the Assistant G-3 spot, relieving LtCol George P. Wolf, Jr., who received orders to the Landing Forces Training Unit, Coronado, Calif.



Col W. M. Cargill

Also a ground officer, LtCol Perkins reported to his new billet from Headquarters Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Hawaii, where he served as Staff Secretary.

Major Doyle Grimes relieved Major Alfred T. Coon as Wing Aircraft Maintenance Officer, Mar. 7. The major, who hails from San Gabriel, Calif. reported here from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N. C.

New Policy Changes Ok'd For Rate Hikes

New policies and procedures for meritorious promotions to certain enlisted grades have been approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Marine Corps Order 1430.15A of Feb. 20, 1961, applies to promotion to sergeant, staff and gunnery sergeant. Change 1 to MCO 1418.9A contains new provisions for meritorious promotions to lance corporal.

Meritorious promotions in the staff noncommissioned officer grades will be limited to advancement to E-6 and E-7. Consideration will be given exceptional, noteworthy, and commendatory performance of duty to a degree which clearly merits accelerated promotion over other qualified Marines, the order states.

Only the Commandant of the Marine Corps will make promotions in the staff grades. Recommendation of the commanding officer and subsequent evaluation of the recommendation and the Marine's over-all record by the Commandant's Promotion, Enlisted Performance Board, will determine final selection.

Greens In Winter Only Says CMC

General David M. Shoup, Commandant of the Marine Corps announced Mar. 3 that he has rejected the idea of a year-round green uniform for Marines. In his remarks to his staff last January 4, Gen Shoup indicated that he expected "to make a decision soon" on the proposal to adopt such a uniform.

"We have been testing and evaluating different materials since February 1958," Gen Shoup said in making the announcement, "and we have not yet found a cloth considered suitable for year-round wear."

Runway Construction 8% Ahead Of Original Plans

"Progress on the resurfacing of the runway here at the Facility is 8% ahead of schedule," according to Cdr A.D. Froman, MCAF Public Works Officer and Project Officer for the construction job.

Three of the six 25 foot wide concrete lanes were completed this past week. The reason for the rapid progress has been due to the excellent weather enjoyed by the construction company.

Only two days have been lost due to weather out of the past twenty-four days.

The order emphasizes that the meritorious promotion is an accelerated promotion of additional well-qualified Marines not promoted by a board because of lack of vacancies.

In the case of sergeants (E-5), commanding generals are authorized to effect meritorious promotions in annual numbers not to exceed 1-1/2 per cent of authorized command strength in that grade.

The Commandant has authorized three-quarters of 1%, or half the annual allowance, to be made during the remainder of the present fiscal year ending June 30.

Commanding officers of units not under the command of a general officer may submit recommendations to the Commandant for meritorious promotion to the grade of sergeant.

The order also provides guidelines to be used in determining qualification for meritorious promotion.

The change to MCO 1418.9A grants authority to commanding officers to utilize the previously allocated "commanding officers promotion" to meritoriously promote Marines to lance corporal and corporal grades.

New Test Policy To Begin Mar. 15

New promotion testing policies effective Mar. 15, for regular and reserve Marines will afford greater co-ordination between individual Marine training and the promotion program, Headquarters Marine Corps has announced.

The plan, outlined in Marine Corps Order 1418.12 of Feb. 20, 1961, will eliminate technical testing, and simplify procedures for administering General Military Subjects Tests.

General Military Subjects Tests will be administered to eligible regular Marines in pay grades E-4, E-5 and E-6 on the first Friday of each April, August and December. Tests will be given eligible reserve Marines on Saturday or Sunday following the first Friday of April and December. Testing periods were formerly designated by Headquarters Marine Corps as required.

A passing score on the General Military Subjects Test will be 65 per cent or above. (Tests will be based on material supplied with Enlisted Extension School Courses and Guidebook for Marines.)