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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 11 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Disaster strikes in scenario form, Active Shield 2012 executed | P. 6 & 7

SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force service members exit the aircraft to start the stacking process for their remaining team members during a hostage scenario as part of exercise Active Shield 2012, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 6, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations and strengthen cooperation between U.S. military forces and Japan Self-Defense Forces in support of the Japan-U.S. security alliance.

Picking up pieces, a year's work done, more to go

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ISHINOMAKI, Japan – A year has passed since the devastation caused by the earthquake and ensuing tsunami hit northern Japan March 11, 2011.

However, a full recovery of the affected areas is far from complete. With the help of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers, the rays of hope for this area may shine even brighter on its new horizon.

SEE VOLUNTEER ON PAGE 3

'Take me down to the little white church'

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents, along with their soon-to-be spouses, attended the Marine Corps Family Team Building Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program workshop at Yujo Hall here Feb. 29.

The workshop taught those attending about the financial, legal and communication aspects of marriage.

"The idea behind the workshop is to support the Marine Corps Bases Japan order stating anyone in Japan or getting married to a foreign national needs to attend this premarital workshop," said Jerilynn Campos, MCFTB life-skills trainer. "Those getting married in the states to an American can also attend the workshop and get great information out of it."

MCBJ 3rd Marine

SEE MARRIAGE ON PAGE 3

Azimuth makes road to top of mountain

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan – "We've got a long way to go, and a short time to get there. We're going to do what they say can't be done."

Marines from Combat Logistics Company 36, 1st platoon, 2nd squad, 3rd fire team sang the 1977 Jerry Reed tune, "East Bound and Down," as they pushed through a rainy, snow-covered forest March 2. The Marines' goal was to plot and find points in a land

SEE AZIMUTH ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'A second chance'

Lt. Cmdr. L.Lee
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

The story of the woman caught in adultery is a story of second chances. Our Lord makes it clear that no matter what you have done or where you have been, he loves you for who you are.

While Jesus was teaching, the Pharisees (teachers of the law) brought in a woman. They made her stand in front of the whole group and they said, "Teacher, we interrupt this teaching moment to bring you this important announcement. This woman is a sinner! She was caught in the act of committing adultery! Moses commanded us to stone such women! Now what do you say?"

The Pharisees consulted Jesus for advice. But they specifically targeted Jesus. They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. In other words, the Pharisees wanted to bring down the ministry of Jesus. This whole thing was a trap.

If Jesus says, "No, don't put that woman to death," the Pharisees will say, "Huh! You are contradicting the Bible! You're a heretic! You deserve to die!" And if Jesus had said "Yes, she should be put to death," they could've said, "Jesus, Jesus, where is this compassion you have been preaching about? You talk of loving your neighbor and your enemies. And now you're ready

to execute a woman you don't even know! You're a hypocrite!" The Pharisees could also have said, "Jesus, are you telling us that we can carry out the death penalty without permission from the Romans? You're a traitor to the emperor! We're turning you in!" So, how did Jesus handle the situation?

He squatted down and wrote on the ground with his finger. Some say he was writing the Ten Commandments. Some say he was drawing a picture. The Pharisees replied back at this blatant defiance with, "Come on! Answer the question! Now, what do you say Jesus?"

And then Jesus straightened up and said, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." In other words, "If you have all your ducks in a row, if you've never done anything wrong, if you're better than everyone else, then go ahead. Be my guest."

Then those who heard the words of Jesus "began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there." The older ones went away first because they lived long enough to know that they were not perfect. They knew they had areas in their lives where they fell short and had made mistakes.

In this story, no one wanted to give this woman a second chance. Everyone was ready to throw the book at her, or quite literally, a stone. But watch what Jesus said to her. He says, "Woman, where

are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." Even though she showed no indication that she was ready to become a Christian, Jesus offered her a new lease on life: a second chance to become the woman of faith that God always wanted her to be. The truth is that everyone in this story walks away with a second chance.

The Pharisees walk away with a chance to think twice about how they should have responded to Jesus Christ. The people in the crowd walked away with a chance to think about their own need for grace: to realize their own need for forgiveness. Last but not least, the woman walked away with a chance to leave her life of sin; a chance to be made whole by the grace of God; a chance to end her adulterous lifestyle and to come back to the God of second chances. The same Jesus who extended a second chance to the people of His day is extending a second chance to all of us today.

You might say, "Chaplain, I have done some things that are so wrong, that I can't see how God could EVER give me a second chance!"

God's message for you is "Yes, I am giving you a second chance. Neither do I condemn you, go now and leave your life of sin."

God is offering you another chance at a relationship with Him. How will you respond to this second chance offer?

VOLUNTEER FROM PAGE 1

Thirty-nine volunteers, the majority taking their own leave days to participate in the volunteer trip, traveled across the city of Ishinomaki in separate groups, each one helping with different volunteer efforts.

"We brought out as many volunteers as possible to help those in need in this area," said Jesus Dominguez, Iwakuni volunteer group leader. "We are just military men and women who decided to come together and put in some hours to help out the community while taking up our own time."

One group's mission was to clean up Minato Shogakko's (Elementary School) gymnasium so sports teams around the community would have a warm, sheltered area for recreational activities.

A haze of dust covered the chipped and decrepit hardwood gym floor, grayer than wood-colored brown. Undeterred, volunteers began the arduous task of sweeping, scrubbing, mopping and waxing the entirety of the floor.

"This gym became a shelter after the earthquake and tsunami," said Jamie El-Banna, volunteer. "People were living in here for months. A local soccer club and a few other sports clubs are using the gym now with permission from the city."

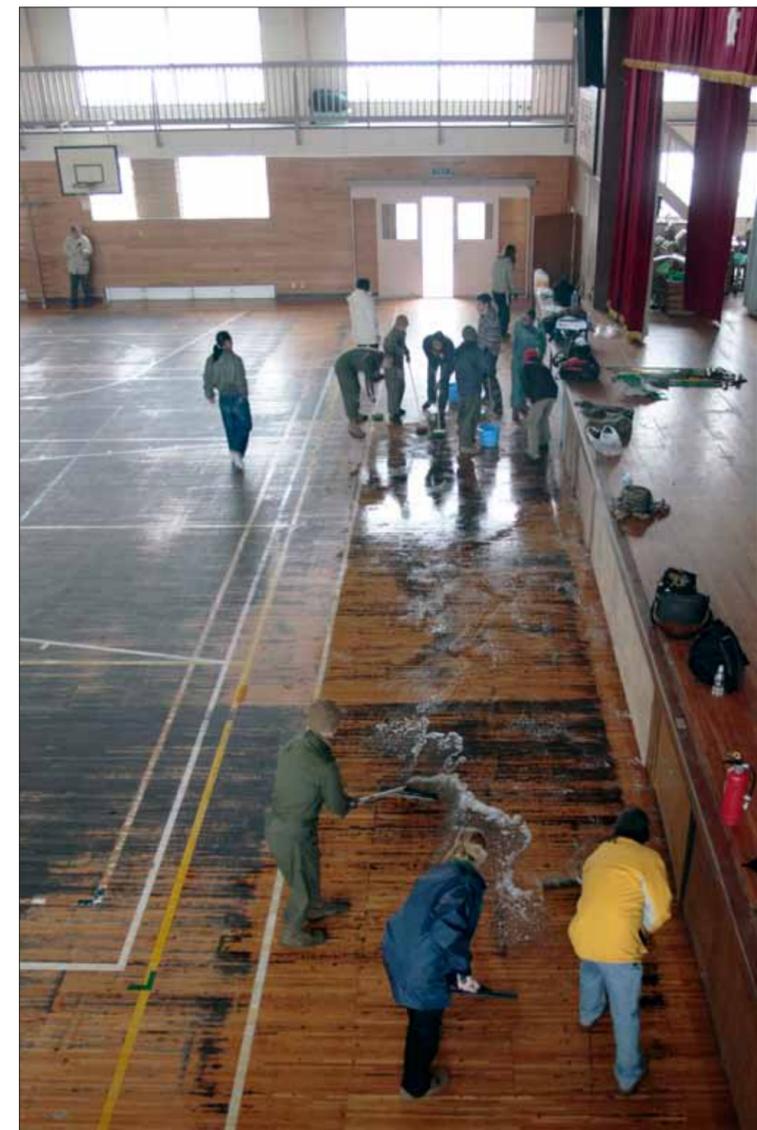
The school building itself is no longer a suitable teaching environment since nature's wrath swept through it.

"To be honest, there is much work to do," said El-Banna. "It's going to be nice for the few days we all are here. I've worked with Marines when I first came up here in May. So I've seen what you guys can do and how quickly you work."

The school now stands as a testament to the painful past to never be forgotten. A clock hangs on the front of the building, its hands frozen in time from a year ago on that fateful day. Next to the school, floors waxed and shining, the gym provides a glimmer of hope for the future, a community returning to its feet with the support of volunteers who chose to make a difference.

"This opportunity is priceless," said Dominguez. "We are two days away from the anniversary of the disaster which hit here. To be able to come out here a year later, you can still see how much work there is left to do. Whatever jobs, however much work we can accomplish while we are here, the honor to be able to help is just priceless."

This story is part one in a series about station residents' volunteer efforts in Ishinomaki, Japan.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

ISHINOMAKI, Japan - Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers mop and squeegee the Minato Shogakko (Elementary School) gym floor here March 5. The gym acted as a shelter for locals in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami which struck this area of Japan March 11, 2011.

MARRIAGE FROM PAGE 1

Expeditionary Force Order 1752.1C states a pre-marital workshop such as this is a requirement for all active duty personnel assigned to MCBJ III MEF who are either marrying a foreign national or having a marriage which will occur in Japan.

"There's a lot of paperwork involved with getting married here because of our (Status of Forces Agreement) status," said Campos. "We want to bring all the experts on marriage here in one place to better prepare those who plan on getting married here."

The legal aspects of getting married in Japan or to a foreign national differ from what servicemembers experience in the states. The order details the legal and administration requirements for pre and post-marital paperwork and benefits.

"This workshop clearly communicates the expectations of a marriage here from a command perspective," said Lt. j.g. Travis

E. Coffey, Marine Aircraft Group 12 deputy chaplain. "For anyone marrying a Japanese national or having their marriage take place in Japan, this lets you know exactly what needs to happen."

While the workshop focused on preparing those who are seeking to tie the knot in Japan, all personnel planning to marry could take away helpful information about the legal requirements of a successful and happy marriage.

"Without question, the financial part of marriage, in my opinion, is about 80 percent of the problems you could have in a marriage," said Cpl. Jeffrey P. Vanmourik, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food service cook. "It was really beneficial being there today learning how to better communicate in my marriage and handle any problems which may arise."

MCFTB hosts these premarital workshops every other month, as well as other programs to help and support servicemembers with the challenges of living a military lifestyle.

AZIMUTH FROM PAGE 1

navigation course similar to common infantry training. However, shortly into their trek it was apparent: this was not another day of regular training.

"The land navigation course was estimated to take a total of three hours through the rough terrain," said Staff Sgt. Robert W. Stone, platoon sergeant for Combat Logistics Company 36 first platoon.

The estimated time of completion accounted for Marines being able to use roads and common waypoints along the way to each checkpoint.

A strategy used by some of the Marines was to follow roads to assist them in their treks from checkpoint to checkpoint, said Stone.

The 3rd fire team did not adhere to this tactic though. Instead, they traversed through any terrain in their own way.

"We used our azimuths and followed them as we were taught, in order to simulate a combat terrain which more than likely won't have roads to follow," said Cpl. Nicholas J. Durbin, 3rd fire team leader.

With the assistance of roads, other Marines found all of their points and returned to the start.

Although others finished the mission faster, their training was just another day, where 3rd fire team saw this as an opportunity to venture off the beaten path.

"I feel my Marines experienced far more than a majority of the other fire teams," said Durbin. "Although we may not have acquired all of our points, we are far more able to navigate through rough terrain where roads aren't always readily available."

Durbin's fire team successfully tracked down two points in the time allotted.

"If we had more time, we would have successfully been able to complete our task," said Lance Cpl. Christopher W. Rainey, 3rd fire team point man.

The land navigation course was set up to teach these Marines how to navigate specific points through rough terrain.

"It wasn't about completing the task assigned to us," said Rainey. "It was about being able to take this training experience to combat and use it to better ourselves and become more efficient."

Although the Marines of 3rd fire team didn't come back first, they were still victors. They maximized their training by practicing skills they can use in the future, shunning the easy path and making them more combat-effective.

Marines attack, erase enemy supply lines

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan – Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 performed tactical maneuvers during two-day simulated missions here March 7 and 8.

The training focused on moving squads and platoons through a variety of terrain in support of a company-sized attack.

“Our primary goal was to cut off the supply lines to an enemy stronghold,” said 1st Lt. Christopher S. Czepiel, CLC-36 1st platoon commander.

For this scenario, small-unit leaders handled much of the training.

Having faith in the Marines, small-unit leaders and supplied intelligence, they decided to push forward and complete the mission in a timely manner, said Czepiel.

“The training has given these Marines an opportunity to see what it is like in a combat zone,” said Sgt. Alex Estrada, CLC-36 1st squad leader, 1st platoon.

The training consisted of multiple missions, including setting up ambushes, hasty defenses, and a variety of squad and platoon movements.

“First, we went out to recon the area and see the type of terrain we will be operating in,” said Estrada. “Then, we set up different ambushes and worked together with other squads and third platoon to support our mission to wipe out an enemy

force using the roads to resupply their main outpost.”

Terrain played an influential role in how the missions played out.

“The terrain ended up being one of our biggest challenges,” said Estrada. “We didn’t know what to expect, and a majority of the time we made our own pathways through dense brush and forested areas.”

The thick terrain ended up slowing down the Marines but allowed for better concealment from the enemy.

“A majority of the time we were crossing creek beds, through forests, tall brush or steep hills, which slowed us down and forced everyone to rely on one another,” said Lance Cpl. Ofni D. Arellano, CLC-36 1st fire team assistant

gunner and field radio operator, 1st squad, 1st platoon.

Terrain made consistent dispersion impossible. At times, squads had to consolidate and at other times, it created separation between fire teams.

“The terrain made it difficult for squad leaders to keep track of everyone, so they were forced to rely on fire team leaders,” said Arellano. “This made small-unit leaders have a more influential role in the overall missions and created a high level of unit cohesion.”

In the end, success ultimately relied on fire-team leaders as they worked together to cut enemy supply lines put them in the dark.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan – Lance Cpl. Nicholas E. Schiner, 1st fire team gunner, 1st squad, 1st platoon, Combat Logistics Company 36, provides security by manning an M240B machine gun at the Small Arms Combat Range at the Combined Arms Training Center at Camp Fuji, Japan, March 8, 2012. The M240B is a belt-fed, gas-operated machine gun which fires a 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge at approximately 2800 feet per second. The training focused on moving squads and platoons through a variety of terrain in support of a company-sized attack. This year’s Exercise Forest Light provides infantry training to non-infantry Marines in a cold weather environment.

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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.

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SEMPER FI

Gabriella Zeugin
INTERNS

LEARNING TO SPEAK MARINE

OORAH

“Can I talk to Sgt Brown?” the client asked.

I had only just begun my internship for Combat Camera and the Public Affairs Office, and there were not many customers’ questions I could answer without asking a Marine first, so I was thrilled when I had recently overheard the answer to this inquiry.

“Sorry, sir. He’s TAD,” I parroted proudly.

“Where is he?”
Uh oh. Busted.

“I don’t know. I actually have no idea what TAD means,” I admitted sheepishly. I was just repeating what I’ve heard.

And of course there were other peculiarities of rank I hadn’t accounted for at all. I went upstairs with Combat Camera Marines to meet PAO Marines and heard everyone calling for “Gunny” to come into the room. It sounded like a cute nickname. Then a Marine who was clearly their superior -- the black blob on his collar was definitely the biggest -- walked into the room. I was baffled by the informality of the nickname; especially since they were all calling me “ma’am”

and leaping up to offer me their seats. I didn’t understand half of what was said to me. Nothing could illustrate my newfound knowledge deficiency more than my struggles with rank. I spent the night before my first day staring at a Marine Corps rank structure chart trying hard to memorize the bright gold and red images. The next day I was dismayed to find that, in contrast to the vivid illustrations of the chart, the black chevrons were nearly impossible for me to make out against their background of woodland cammies. I could only tell someone’s relative importance by looking at how big or little the black blob appeared.

Gradually, I began to realize the Marines with whom I worked liked explaining things to me. It was fun for them to show the baffled civilian the ways of the Marine Corps. In fact, when it came time for me to write my own article, two of the Marines decided to take me to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting burn pit so I could see and report on something truly exciting.

I loved it.

The ARFF Marines wore intense-looking suits and gear, which made them look like astronauts, but the fire they battled seemed more like something one would encounter in the deepest pits of earth than in space. I didn’t know smoke could be so black or flames

could leap so high without something physical to climb. I tried to remain casual and focused like the other Marines who observed and took photos, but there were quite a few moments when I caught myself simply staring in awe, the camera dangling uselessly from the strap around my neck. In the end, the fire reached a crescendo, and the fire truck sprayed foam across the area, immediately smothering the flames. All of the Marines chattered in excitement because of this rare phenomenon (foam is almost never used in training), while I distinguished myself as the outsider once again by being disappointed rather than excited. I didn’t want the training to end!

By now, my friends at home don’t understand half of the stories I tell them about my day. Sure, I still have questions when new things come up, but I’m not embarrassed to ask them. The Marines may tease me, but after watching the way they interact with each other, I realize that just means I’m being accepted as part of the team.

I finally feel comfortable here, now that I’m about to leave, of course. But isn’t that the way it always is?

ACTIVE SHIELD 2012



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force service members prepare to stack after rappelling from a UH-1J during a hostage scenario as part of exercise Active Shield 2012, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 6, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations.

Medical and Station Fire Department personnel communicate with each other about where to place a “wounded” role-player during a mass casualty scenario as part of Exercise Active Shield 2012, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 7, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise.



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Members of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force search a vehicle as part of a training exercise during Exercise Active Shield 2012 here March 7. The JGSDF members were guarding a section of the road and reporting any suspicious activity to station Provost Marshals Office.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Sgt. Shaun Sands of Station Provost Marshals Office question a detainee at a vehicle checkpoint during Exercise Active Shield 2012 here March 7. The suspect was captured and taken into custody as part of a training exercise.



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

Station Fire Department personnel respond to a “wounded” role-player during a mass casualty scenario as part of Exercise Active Shield 2012, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 7, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations.

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

ACTIVE SHIELD 2012 ALL HANDS ON DECK

Annual exercise validates station ability to defend

Sgt. Charles McKelvey
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

U.S. servicemembers and Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces came together and took up arms to defend Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni by land, sea and air against an uncommon enemy.

The enemy consisted of Marines and sailors stationed here operating under codename, "Red Cell."

Role-players invaded, planted bombs and took hostages during a three-day exercise, which concluded March 8, called Active Shield.

"Exercise, Exercise, Exercise," sounded on the afternoon of March 5 to begin the annual training.

Auxiliary Security Force Marines left their day jobs and reported to the armory to draw individual weapons.

Meanwhile, military police, along with other key units such as Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Harbor Operations, amplified their vigilance and stood ready to respond.

Scenarios included a hostage situation, incidents on the water, suspicious package, mass casualty and chemical biological

radiological nuclear evacuation.

"Active Shield tests a unit's ability to execute mission-essential tasks," said 1st Lt. Katherine C. Kleess, White Cell officer-in-charge. "Each scenario was specifically designed by a subject-matter expert."

To maximize training, multiple scenarios were linked together to replicate how they may occur if it were a real threat, said Kleess.

"There were events that occurred which gave information to another scenario," said Kleess. "One example was when a boat entered restricted waters and (the Provost Marshal's Office) apprehended a person from the vessel. This person then was interrogated and gave information about a suspicious package."

Even though many of the scenarios tested station units, an integral part of the success of Active Shield was the JGSDF involvement.

Alongside U.S. servicemembers were approximately 200 Japanese soldiers from the 46th Regiment, 13th Brigade, stationed at Camp Kaitaichi, Hiroshima, who supported Active Shield, to include a tactical aircraft filled with Japanese Rangers.

"Training events like Active Shield are extremely important when there is a chance

Marines will respond to a call with Japanese forces," said 2nd Lt. Shannon L. Gross, PMO services officer. "You cannot always guarantee there will be someone who speaks English or an interpreter present, so you must have other ways to communicate."

In preparation for Active Shield, MPs cross-trained with JGSDF to ensure when the time came to perform, they would be on the same page. Hand signals, commands and other forms of communication became universal and allowed two finely-tuned machines to operate as one.

"The hostage scenario was one of the exercise's highlights for PMO," said Gross. "It tested not only our ability to respond on time, but also in appropriate fashion, which is essential for first responders."

They demonstrated these traits during the hostage scenario when Special Response Team Marines and Japanese Rangers tactically stormed into a dim, rundown building to rescue and secure the threat.

Although Active Shield 2012 was just an exercise, one thing was clear: MCAS Iwakuni and the JGSDF are ready to defend themselves against any threat, foreign or domestic.



Japanese Ground Self Defense Force Rangers discuss tactics before attempting a hostage rescue exercise during operation Active Shield here March 7. The Rangers repelled in from a chopper to the site of the hostage situation and took a defensive position in order to organize a plan of attack.

SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

An Explosive Ordnance Technician views a monitor during a suspicious package scenario as part of Exercise Active Shield 2012, at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 7, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

(Left) A Special Response Team Marine stands watch after clearing a building during the hostage scenario as part of Exercise Active Shield 2012 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 7, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations. Although Active Shield 2012 was just an exercise, one thing was clear: MCAS Iwakuni and the JGSDF are ready to defend themselves against any threat, foreign or domestic.



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

U.S. sailor Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2) Justin H. Collins, is questioned by U.S. sailor Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1) Dwayne T. Jones below deck during exercise Active Shield 2012, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 6, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations and strengthen cooperation between U.S. military forces and Japan Self-Defense Forces in support of the Japan - U.S. security alliance.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

A station corpsman provides medical assistance to a victim of the mass casualty scenario during operation Active Shield here March 7. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Special Response Team Marines enter into a building during the hostage scenario as part of Exercise Active Shield 2012 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 7, 2012. Active Shield 2012 is an annual U.S.-Japan combined exercise designed to increase bilateral coordination in support of installation force protection operations.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

VMA-311 joins 31st MEU, conducts carrier-landing qualifications

Cpl. Garry J. Welch
31ST MARINE
EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

USS ESSEX, At sea — Coming in to land vertically onto the pitching, moving deck of the USS Essex, is no easy task, but the Marine Attack Squadron 311 Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, skillfully completed that very task, March 4.

Flying on five AV-8B Harriers, VMA-311 Marines joined their brothers at sea, and is now preparing to support the 31st MEU as it moves into Amphibious Integration Training and Certification Exercise.

“We are here to support the MEU,” said Lt. Col. Peter S. Blake, VMA-311 commanding officer, 31st MEU. “We provide them all the close air support, non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, as well as convoy escort or aerial escort for the helicopters and ground assets out there.”

To ensure VMA-311 is fully prepared to support the 31st MEU during the day and night, the pilots of VMA-311 wasted no time and began conducting carrier-landing qualifications.

“We are conducting landings during the day and will transition straight into night landings so we can get current on our carrier-landing qualifications,” said Capt. Brandon G. Lev, VMA-311, 31st MEU quality assurance officer, and harrier pilot.

Landing during the day allows the pilots a chance to familiarize themselves with important reference points on the ship which are needed when landing during the night.

Although many of the pilots have done this training on multiple occasions, there are still factors that challenge their skills, making the training even more important for the pilots to conduct.

“If there’s a full moon out then it’s like flying during the day as long as the sky is clear,” said Lev. “But if there is a cloud layer and it’s already dark. It just makes it much more difficult, even if we are using night vision goggles.”

The pilots will conduct what is called aided, and unaided night landings; meaning they will do some utilizing night-vision goggles, and others with only the moonlight and dim deck lights on the flight deck of the USS Essex to guide them.

Another challenge the pilots must overcome is just landing on a moving ship. To do this, they have to be moving forward as fast as the ship is, and land vertically at the same time.

“It’s a little bit weird when you’re trying to land straight down while the boat is still moving,” said Lev. “You don’t realize you’re still moving forward as you’re coming down. It’s not too hard but you definitely have to pay close attention to what is going on.”

The Marines of VMA-311 are currently preparing for the MEU’s Certification Exercise, where they will be evaluated on their abilities to operate from ship.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation’s force-in-readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



USS ESSEX, At sea — AV-8B Harriers of Marine Attack Squadron 311, part of the Air Combat Element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, land aboard the flight deck of USS Essex, March 5. The squadron joined the 31st MEU to support it during the upcoming Amphibious Integration Training and Certification Exercise. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation’s force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



USS ESSEX, At sea — An AV-8B Harrier of Marine Attack Squadron 311, part of the Air Combat Element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, lands aboard the flight deck of USS Essex, March 5. The squadron joined the 31st MEU to support it during the upcoming Amphibious Integration Training and Certification Exercise. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation’s force-in-readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



CPL. GARRY J. WELCH

USS ESSEX, At sea — An AV-8B Harrier with Marine Attack Squadron 311, part of the Air Combat Element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, lands as another begins its final approach aboard the flight deck of USS Essex, March 5. The squadron joined the 31st MEU to support it during the upcoming Amphibious Integration Training and Certification Exercise.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

OSC Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for OSC scholarships. Graduating seniors or spouses can apply by sending an e-mail to iwakunischolarship@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 roger.wilco@comcast.net.

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.

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.

Like To Draw?

The Iwakuni Approach is looking for artistic people with a sense of humor to submit cartoon drawings. If you are interested, bring your drawings by the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216. Public Affairs approves editorial content for cartoons published each week.

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 abilities are welcome. For more information, visit “Iwakuni Roadrunners” Facebook page.

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.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

Put these numbers in your wallet •Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837). •Life limb or loss of vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700. •For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal’s Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person. Crime Stoppers: 253-3333. •Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

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

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS offers fun support and encouragement for mothers of children ages 0-5. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. Volunteers are also needed to help with the children’s program. For more information, call Sarah Spencer at 253-2303 or visit www.facebook/IwakuniMOPS.

PMO Lost and Found

Contact the Provost Marshal’s Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the station. Examples include helmets, cameras, cell phones, etc. For more information, to report lost items or to claim lost items, call 253-4929.

Lending Locker Program

The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check out items, and the program is by appointment only. The

lending locker is located in Building 411, Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

Girl Scouts

The Iwakuni Girl Scouts is looking for fun-loving, devoted women and men who want to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls. If you are interested in becoming a leader, coleader, board member or parent volunteer, e-mail iwakunigs@gmail.com.

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. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.



SUBMITTED BY LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

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,
 1 p.m. Contemporary

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



PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO COURTESY OF GARGO

The word “karaoke” itself comes from two Japanese words: “kara,” which comes from karappo, translated to empty, and “oke,” which comes from okesutura, translates to “orchestra”. The word karaoke literally means “empty orchestra”.
 Originating in the 1980s, karaoke has given friends, families, co-workers and even strangers the opportunity to relax and let loose in an enjoyable and entertaining environment.
 Initially, karaoke machines were only in restaurants or hotel rooms, but have spread into an entire business of karaoke shops.
 The karaoke shops, or “KTV boxes,” quickly spread to the rest of Asia and eventually to the United States in the 1990s.
 Modern karaoke shops in Japan consist of several private rooms, each with a karaoke player, screens and microphones in each karaoke box. Most karaoke boxes also offer the option to order food and drinks. Karaoke boxes range in size from a two-person box, up to a party-sized box.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 16, 2012
 7 p.m. Man on a Ledge (PG-13)
 10 p.m. Safe House (R)

Monday, March 19, 2012
 7 p.m. Man on a Ledge (PG-13)

Tuesday, March 20, 2012
 Theater closed

Wednesday, March 21, 2012
 Theater closed

Thursday, March 22, 2012
 7 p.m. Haywire

Saturday, March 17, 2012
 4 p.m. Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax (PG)
 7 p.m. Act of Valor (R)

Sunday, March 18, 2012
 4 p.m. Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax (PG)
 7 p.m. Underworld: Awakening (R)

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

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

Mess Hall Menu

<p>Monday: Corn chowder, jerked styled chicken, spicy baked fish, Lyonnaise rice, baked macaroni and cheese, asparagus, corn, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, bear claws, blueberry muffins, cherry pie, white cake, butter cream frosting, brownies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait</p>	<p>Tuesday: Chicken with rice, baked Italian sausage, pepper steak, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, brussels sprout polonaise, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, snails, banana nut muffins, peach crunch, cheese cake, peanut butter cookies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait</p>	<p>Wednesday: Cream of chicken soup, baked salmon, Yankee pot roast, paprika buttered potatoes, steamed rice, peas and carrots, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, kolaches, quick cherry coffee cake, pecan pie, marble cake, butter cream frosting, chocolate chip cookies, banana cream pudding, Jell-O parfait</p>	<p>Thursday: Minestrone soup, apple glazed corn beef, Cantonese pork ribs, potatoes au gratin, tossed green rice, orange carrots amandine, spinach, mustard sauce, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, bowknots, blueberry muffin, apple pie, devils food cake, coconut butter cream frosting, shortbread cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait</p>	<p>Friday: Chicken rice soup, savory baked chicken, fried catfish, mashed potatoes, long grain and wild rice, squash, asparagus, chicken gravy, brown gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, quick French coffee cake, doughnut, cherry pie, yellow cake, chocolate butter cream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait</p>
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Ballers battle Clippers during youth sports basketball game

Gabriella Zeugin
 INTERN

Parents and siblings watch with pride and anxiety as the Clippers battled the Ballers across the basketball court at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here March 10. The hoops tower above the players, but still they sink shots with fierce determination. It’s a typical Saturday morning for families involved in the youth basketball scene.

The Clippers and the Ballers are two of the teams in the ten-to-twelve year old division, said Chris Mifflin, assistant coach for the Ballers.

“I think the biggest challenge for my team is all the different age groups,” said Mifflin. “We’ve got kids who are fourth grade all the way up to seventh grade and, you know, different skill levels. Working together like that, that’s hard for them.”

He does not let this challenge hold them back. At Wednesday night practices, they work on fundamentals.

“We work on a lot of different things: screens, just their dribbling skills, shooting, rebounding, passing, you know, just working as a team,” said Mifflin. “Coach Tony always has a

good practice session organized, and the kids learn a lot.”

All of the kids played hard, but in the end, the Clippers won with a score of 16-13.

Both Patrick Gomes, 13, a Ballers player and Eric Petersen, 11, a Clippers player named defense as their team’s greatest weakness, but when asked what his team was best at Petersen said, “Taking the ball down the court and shooting.” Perhaps that skill won them the game.

Of course, winning is not the only measure of success in youth sports.

“The kids played well today and [with] a lot of spirit,” said Mifflin. “As long as they’re having fun and they’re learning something, it’s worthwhile.”

Petersen, who kept shooting hoops long after the game’s end, certainly seemed to be having fun, but he didn’t mind the additional enjoyment of winning games.

“I hope we can win the play-offs!” he said, before racing away to pick up another basketball.

The other players no doubt hope the same, but while only one team can triumph overall, everyone wins when they’re having fun.



Patrick Gomes, 13, a Ballers’ player, shoots the ball during a youth basketball game March 10, 2012, at the IronWorks sports courts aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. The Clippers defeated the Ballers with a final score of 16 to 13. The Clippers and the Ballers are two of the teams in the ten-to-twelve year old division, said Chris Mifflin, assistant coach for the Ballers.

GABRIELLA ZEUGIN



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Patrick Gomes, 13, a Ballers’ player, races toward the hoop during a youth basketball game March 10, 2012, at the IronWorks sports courts aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. The Clippers defeated the Ballers with a final score of 16 to 13. Parents and siblings watch with pride and anxiety as the Clippers battled the Ballers across the basketball court.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the March 17, 1972 edition of the "Torii Teller," Marines reported on uniform change to begin April 2, the Protestant Women of the Chapel will meet and eat, MCAA membership is open to members of the Armed Forces who have served or are serving with a Marine Corps Aviation unit, barber shop prices increase and the Japanese-American Cultural Friendship Association will be starting the Japanese martial art of Naginata. The feature story in this issue talks about the PS-1 flying boat.

MCX Garage

Inspection assist offered

The Marine Corps Exchange Garage has news for Iwakunians worried about getting their automobiles inspected. The garage will do all necessary work to get a serviceman's car in shape for the inspection and take the car for inspection themselves.

A call 3 to 4 weeks prior to the inspection date will get the serviceman an appointment to have his car pre-inspected.

For 5 dollars, the garage will give an estimate of how much he can expect to pay to get his car in shape.

If he decides to get the work done there, the MCX garage will ask to have the car ten days in advance of the inspection date. Garage mechanics take vehicles for inspections each Wednesday.

After completing needed repairs and adjustments, to include steam cleaning the engine, undercoating, headlight and brake adjustments, the vehicle will be taken for the inspection. If it should happen to fail, the garage will make the necessary re-adjustments or work at no cost to the owner and take the car back for inspection.

Average labor costs for this service are about 80 dollars with parts averaging another 50 to 70 dollars. The two major expenses are the steering assembly and tires.

Additional expenses will be: ¥ 3,000 - 6,000 for road and weight tax inspection fees. Monies for these expenses have to be given to the garage mechanic to take with them. Also, Iwakunians will have to buy their Japanese compulsory insurance prior to having the vehicle taken for inspection.

Due to limited space and manpower, the garage can handle only two cars per week. This is the reason for the 3 - 4 week lead time for an appointment for repair work.

The inspection is good for two years on sedans and one year on station wagons.

Dental help at M.C. Perry

Students of M. C. Perry School here got the complete treatment this week as Iwakuni dental officers and technicians spent three days, March 13, 14 and 15, examining teeth, providing fluoride treatments, giving plaque control instructions and showing preventive dentistry films at the school.



Short sleeves out on liberty

With warm weather slowly moving in at Iwakuni, Marines don the short sleeve shirts as part of the uniform of the day.

However, before doing this, Iwakunians should check the most recent change to Air Station Order 1020.10 which states the khaki shirt with quarter length sleeve will be worn while in a duty status only. It is not authorized for wear while on leave or liberty.

3,494 sgts. in March

Composite scores which will result in the promotion of 3,494 corporals to sergeant during March have been released to field commanders.

ALMAR 17 directed commanders to promote eligible and fully qualified corporals and assign a date of rank of March 1 for seniority and pay purposes.

Eligible for this promotion period are corporals with a date of rank of June 1, 1971 or earlier. The minimum eight months in grade required is an increase of one month over the last promotion period in December.

Minimum composite scores needed for promotion by occupational field are:

01/131, 02/100, 03/137, 04/132, 08/129, 11/137, 13/134, 14/132, 15/136, 18/100, 21/128, 23/135, 25/138, 28/135, 30/130, 31/138, 32/136, 33/130, 34/100, 35/139, 40/100, 41/125, 43/100, 44/138, 46/140, 55/140, 57/100, 58/138, 59/100, 60/138, 62/138, 62/138, 65/138, 67/133, 68/139, 70/140, 71/128. For those corporals with a primary 9915 MOS the minimum composite score needed is 129.

Torii gomen

In last week's issue of the **Torii Teller**, on page 2, we ran an article entitled "ALMAR 16 changes rules." We offer our apologies for a misleading statement brought on by changing an "o" for an "e."

In the portion regarding those who may request an immediate discharge for their own convenience, we said: "Sergeants who have been considered for promotion twice, once in the promotion zone and once above the zone, will not be allowed to reenlist or extend, although waivers may be considered in certain cases. In fact THOSE (should have been THESE) sergeants, and former staff NCOs who have been reduced to sergeant or below, may request an immediate discharge for their own convenience."