

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 16 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Kintai marathon runners thunder through station

Kintai Marathon runners hit the streets | Pg. 11



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Racers take off from the starting line after setting their watches to help pace themselves for the 45th annual Kintai Marathon around Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni April 15, 2012. Racers began clumped together, but the pack quickly thinned as many racers sped past or dropped behind the rest of the pack. The race isn't about winning for some competitors; some just love the thought of completing the race. The ability for all of these racers to complete the 26-mile race takes training and keeps these runners fit and healthy.

MWSS-171, MAG-12 merge into unit of readiness: The Ready Group

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 is slated to merge into the command of Marine Aircraft Group 12 during a transfer of authority ceremony here May 4.

MWSS-171 has been under command of the MAGs under Marine Wing Support Group 17 in the past.

"We have already begun familiarizing ourselves with MAG-12's battle rhythm and their required reporting," said Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor, MWSS-171 commanding officer. "Colonel Mahoney, (MAG-12 commanding officer) will be given a tour of MWSS-171's companies and receive briefs on their capabilities and equipment prior to the formal transition."

MWSS-171 will provide MAG-12 with new elements of support and allow a direct connection to them.

"MWSS-171 does work closely with MAG-12 already and with the aligning of MWSSs with MAGs, I would expect wherever and whenever MAG-12 needs aviation ground support, 171 will be the MWSS providing it," said Taylor.

Many more capabilities will be available to MAG-12 after the merge.

"All of the same aviation ground-support capabilities we provided to the MAGs under MWSSG-17 will be available to MAG-12. There are more than 80 different (Marine Occupational Specialties) in an MWSS, providing a wide range of capabilities from constructing a flightline to preparing hot

chow," said Taylor. "We bring an expeditionary capability that enhances the MAG's flexibility and responsiveness."

The efficiency of MAG-12 has risen to a new level with the addition of MWSS-171.

"These capabilities mean the MWSS must be constantly at a high state of readiness and ability to deploy," said Taylor. "We will play a big part in ensuring MAG-12's squadrons are able to rapidly project combat power almost anywhere in the region."

One priority of a MAG is to remain constantly mission capable and consistently combat ready. With the addition of MWSS-171, MAG-12 can seamlessly provide these attributes.

"(The merge) should be a seamless transition with

no difference in how we do business, it just means our boss at headquarters will be here in Iwakuni with us," said Sgt. Maj. Albert Diaz, MWSS-171 sergeant major.

MWSS-171 can now be utilized to their fullest, and used for their wide variety of skills by falling under MAG-12.

"I believe we bring a lot of tools to the table for MAG-12," said Diaz. "They have seen the capabilities that our Marines bring and now (the tools) are in their hands, allowing them to utilize those skills."

With the added capabilities MWSS-171 provides MAG-12, the MAG has many more options and will be even more efficient with their deployments and mission readiness.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'What would your biggest regret be if this was your last day of life?'

Lt. j.g. Travis Coffey
MAG-12 DEPUTY GROUP
CHAPLAIN

Bronnie Ware, an Australian palliative nurse who counsels the dying in their last days, revealed the most common regrets we have at the end of our lives. Ware writes of the phenomenal clarity of vision people gain at the end of their lives and how we might learn from their wisdom.

"When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently," she says, "common themes surfaced again and again."

Here are the top five regrets of the dying, as witnessed by Ware.

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

"This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honored even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made. Health brings a freedom very few realize, until they no longer have it."

Maybe we can do more in our life to believe in our dreams (not our neighbor's dreams) and really chase after them?

2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard.

"This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret, but as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence."

We do hard work here at MCAS Iwakuni and with MAG-12, but are we working hard to balance in time for important priorities in our lives like family and relationships?

3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.

"Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result."

Can we build a trust in others to be honest in our communication, yet patient and humble in our understanding; giving people the benefit of the doubt as we aim towards personal and professional growth in our communication endeavors?

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

"Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it

was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying."

When is the last time you wrote or called your friends from the past who have played a supporting role in your life journey?

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

"This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others and to themselves that they were content, when deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again."

What things do you do for fun and for laughs, or what things keep you young at heart?

What's your greatest regret so far and what will you set out to achieve or change while you still have the chance? It is never too late to evaluate your life and journey to make sure you are living your life with NO REGRETS!

ROAD TAX APRIL 2012

Road Tax must be paid between April 02, 2012 - April 27, 2012 in order to drive.

Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to PMO Pass and Registration to receive your new base decal:

- Japanese Title
- Secondary Insurance
- 2012 Road tax receipt
- JCI Insurance
- Recycling fee receipt
- SOFA license and AFID card
- The vehicle / motorcycle

To avoid the long lines of the "last minute rush" at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal in early April!!!

On **Monday, April 30, 2012**, the PMO Pass and Registration Section will only be open for renewing decals, no other business will take place during the time; i.e. driver's license, vehicle transfers, etc.

HEAVY VEHICLE:

PLATE	COST
100Y	¥32,000
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E, 329Y, 330Y, 331Y	(4,501cc & over) ¥22,000
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y 529Y, 530Y, 531Y, 500E	(4,500cc & below) ¥19,000
	¥7,500

Heavy Vehicles will pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building (0830-1715) (Parking is free in the rear of the building.)

LIGHT VEHICLE / MOTORCYCLE:

PLATE	COST
50A, 40A, 480A, 580A	¥3,000
YAMA A, B	¥1,000
IWAKUNI A, B, C	¥500

Light Vehicles & Motorcycles will pay road tax on the 2nd floor of City Hall (0830-1715), located across from the Police Station. (Parking is free)

Maps to the New Symphonia Building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO Pass & Registration Section

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN !!!

Stand-up comics perform, brings laughs to station

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Residents aboard station found laughter in the form of a comedy show performed by comedians Tom Simmons and Paul Hooper in the Club Iwakuni ballroom here April 15, 2012.

The two comics performed here as part of their Japan tour, which is taking them from Iwakuni to Tokyo then on to Okinawa, performing at several bases.

Simmons was first on the stage.

Simmons, during his more than 19-year comedy career, has been noted for performances in comedy tours, clubs and theatres all around the U.S. as well as performing for troops in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan in 2005. Simmons is also the

winner of the 2009 San Francisco comedy competition.

Simmons took to the stage as a natural would and lead the audience on a roller coaster of laughs by sharing details on his personal life, and his opinions and views on everyday things.

"I like performing for troops overseas more than back in the states," said Simmons. "They seem to appreciate it more because it's not something they get to see every day and the fact that we can put a smile on their face is the reason we do this job."

Comic Paul Hooper also took the spotlight.

Hooper, a veteran of comedy, has 14 years of experience performing for audiences.

Hooper has performed in events such as the HBO Comedy Festival in Vegas and was a

finalist in the 30th annual Seattle International Comedy Festival and more. He has also performed for various military towns and during this performance he took a firm hold on the audience's attention.

"I have performed at almost every conceivable venue," said Hooper. "From bases to bars, cruises, indoor, outdoor, comedy clubs, you name it."

Hooper's act involved informing the audience of his obsessive compulsive disorder and the many trifles that come with it.

He also shared personal stories from past days on tour, which literally had the audience bursting from their seats in laughter.

Before the show began, Simmons and Hooper decided

to travel through the town and take in what they could from Japan. Given, it was the first time for both of them in Japan. They admired the sights of the Iwakuni Castle and enjoyed local cuisine.

According to Simmons and Hooper, it was a great time and the people were different from what they were used to. But Japan, in their opinion, was a great place that they have enjoyed visiting thus far.

The show ended and the audience bid their farewells with a round of applause.

Simmons and Hooper may have only stayed a short time, but it was long enough to provide laughs for station residents. The next stop on their Japanese tour is Camp Fuji, then ending with five days in Okinawa.

Master gunnery sergeant reflects on 20 year career

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter, Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

There comes a time in one's career when it's time to move on. For one station Marine his time has come after 20 years and eight promotions.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Steele, station Installation Personnel Administration Center staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, hangs up his blouse after an accomplished career in the Corps.

Steele, a 38-year-old Yukon, Okla., native, and diehard Oklahoma Sooners fan, is slated to retire May 18, 2012.

Looking back on his career, Steele originally did not know if he would actually stay in.

"When I first came in, I never saw myself doing this for twenty years," said Steele. "As a matter of fact, there were two points in my career where I thought about getting out."

Admiration is one feeling Marines may have when looking at Steele's rise through the ranks in such a quick fashion. But for Steele, time or age was something he never considered.

"I've never looked at it in terms of time or how old I am," said Steele. "I look at it more as what I've done along the way with my accomplishments."

These accomplishments are more abstract than the usual ones that may come to mind when a man looks back on his career.

"My biggest accomplishment in the Marine Corps was earning the trust and confidence of my leadership, which allowed me the opportunity to get promoted and lead Marines," said Steele.

A determined work ethic and a strong drive to succeed are but a few of the intangibles a person needs in order to have a long, prosperous career.

Steele has these in spades.

For him, that sense, that drive to be the best at his job and as a Marine comes from small-town values and lessons taught by his father.

"It definitely started back home," said Steele. "I'm a big believer in the foundation my family laid for me before I came into the Marine Corps. From a very early age, my dad had me working, paying bills, teaching me responsibility and how to be

a man." His foundation, having been set in place by his father, was reinforced by his experiences within the Corps.

"The Marine Corps culture is very closely related to the environment I grew up in," said Steele. "My transition to the culture of the Marine Corps was fairly easy for me because the same values the Marine Corps teaches (were) taught to me by family."

One benefit of having served 20 years is the multitude of Marines under his charge, who have helped him grow as a leader and Marine.

When asked about what he would wish for his legacy to be, Steele remained humble.

"I'd be the wrong person to ask," said Steele. "The only reason I'm here is the people who've gotten me here. It's partially what I did on my own, but I attribute it to those people in my past. Without them, I would never be the man, or Marine, I am today. Whether it's one of my young Marines, or Marines at past duty stations, all of them have an equal impact in my life."

Much like his Marines impacted his life Steele has left similar impressions on many Marines who worked for him.

"As a role model, he is the most amazing Marine I have ever met," said Staff Sgt. Tressia K. Rakestraw, H&HS administration chief. "His care and concern for Marines is much like that of a parent for their kids."

Rakestraw looks up to Steele not only as an administrator, but as a Marine who embodies the total Marine concept.

"He has been a drill instructor, he has done I&I, he has deployed to Iraq," said Rakestraw. "That, along with his knowledge of administration, has brought him a long way."

Rakestraw is just one among many Marines here who will miss Steele once he retires.

Steele was a mentor for many and routinely sat on meritorious boards. When not hard at work, he could be found in the hallways giving advice to anyone eager to learn.

"It's sad to see him go and we will be at a loss once he's gone," said Rakestraw. "He is the epitome of a Marine, he's a Marine's Marine."



STOCK PHOTO

The only reason I'm here is the people who've gotten me here. It's partially what I did on my own, but I attribute it to those people in my past. Without them, I would never be the man, or Marine, I am today. Whether it's one of my young Marines, or Marines at past duty stations, all of them have an equal impact in my life.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Steele
station Installation Personnel Administration Center
staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge

NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER SURRENDER

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter, Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents participated in a women's self-defense class in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the Dojo at IronWorks Gym here April 14, 2012.

The purpose of the class was to instruct women on how to properly defend themselves in the event of an assault.

"Anyone can be a victim at anytime," said Sgt. Julia Henley, self-defense class instructor. "It doesn't matter your size, race, sex, nationality, none of that matters."

The class focused on a variety of different approaches to defense, from basic punches and knee and elbow strikes, to more advanced techniques such as what to do in the event an attacker has a victim on the ground.

Instructors walked students through each technique to give the proper understanding of how each maneuver works and to avoid injury while performing it.

"What we teach the students is how to easily defend themselves," said Henley. "Most of our students are primarily dependents and some of them have a little bit of fighting experience, most of them don't. Some take a kickboxing class so they understand the basics of a punch. Most people do not know how to properly execute a kick or a punch."

A total of nine participants took part in the class.

Some of the students heard of the class at the last minute, but were still excited by what they had learned.

"I had just finished working out when they told me there was a class," said Janice Baughn, self-defense class student. "I learned a lot and it was very educational. My favorite part was the punching because if a person is attacking you first it's easier to get in a stance."

The students felt confident in knowing these techniques could possibly save their lives and the fact their instructors discussed various scenarios they could potentially be in.

"I really do feel if someone attacked me, I could defend myself," said Baughn. "The instructors were very thorough in what they were teaching with their demonstrations."

Sexual Assault Awareness Month should not be the only time women, or men, are concerned with assault, sexual or otherwise. Anyone can become a victim at any time. As such, the drive to live, to keep fighting, and more importantly, be safe, should be a priority.

"Don't become a target," said Henley. "Never give up, no matter what, even if your technique fails. As long as you keep hitting, eventually you're going to hit something vital because if you give up on yourself, the fight's already lost."



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Janice Baughn, women's self defense class student, performs an elbow strike on a pad as CW02 Sergio Esquivel, women's self defense instructor, watches to ensure proper technique and placement during a women's self-defense class at the IronWorks Gym here April 14. The class covered basic techniques, such as punches and kicks, to more advanced moves when an attacker grabs a person from behind or throws them to the ground.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Cpl. Daniel Person, women's self-defense class instructor, simulates choking Sgt. Julia Henley, women's self-defense instructor, as she demonstrates proper placement of chin and hands during a women's self-defense class at the Ironworks Gym here April 14. Some of the more sensitive areas a person can strike when being attacked are the eyes, ears, and groin. The class focused on striking these vital areas and also weight manipulation.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Sayaka Takabayashi, women's self-defense class student, performs a forward kick on a strike pad as practice for strikes to a knee as Sgt. Julia Henley, women's self-defense class instructor, watches her technique during a women's self-defense class at the IronWorks Gym here April 14. Henley discussed during the class how many of the close-quarter moves involve weight manipulation when trying to fight off an attacker.

"Don't become a target. Never give up, no matter what, even if your technique fails. As long as you keep hitting, eventually you're going to hit something vital because if you give up on yourself, the fight's already lost."

Sgt. Julia Henley, self-defense class instructor



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team candidates plan out different ways they would be able to enter a room from various angles during an SRT indoctrination brief at an empty lot behind Matthew C. Perry Schools here April 10, 2012. The candidates started their indoctrination brief at 4:30 a.m., running a Physical Fitness Test. Once the candidates finished the day long training indoc, they took an oral examination followed by a written test. For consideration into SRT, the Marines must have a first class PFT and Combat Fitness Test and must be at a minimum rank of lance corporal.

SRT pushes candidates to physical, mental limits during indoc brief

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter, Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Potential candidates from the Provost Marshal's Office took part in a Special Reaction Team indoctrination brief on a vacant lot behind the Matthew C. Perry Schools here April 10, 2012.

The Special Reaction Team is a subdivision of PMO which is tasked with taking on certain situations that have escalated beyond what a basic PMO Marine could expect to encounter. SRT can be seen as the Marine Corps' equivalent of civilian police's Special Weapons And Tactics division.

The purpose of the indoctrination brief was to give SRT members a chance to see several candidates who may eventually fill vacant spots which will become available when current SRT members change their permanent duty stations.

"This is our chance to replenish our ranks," said Staff Sgt. Bryce Good, SRT staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

The candidates started their indoctrination brief at 4:30 a.m., running a Physical Fitness Test. They next performed a number of drills and exercises, such as step-out drills, proper room-clearing procedures, and techniques essential to the job of all SRT members.

The Marines were also required to perform weapons disassembly and reassembly of both the M16A4 service rifle and the M9 service pistol at different stations, all the while SRT members asked them random questions tailored toward distracting the candidate while under pressure and performing physical exercises

such as pushups, burpees and jumping jacks. These procedures tested their mental and physical dexterity.

"It's pretty much one big evaluation," said Good. "They come out and show us what they've got."

Once the candidates finished the grueling period of training, they took an oral examination followed by a written test. The candidates who showed the most promise will conduct on-the-job training in preparation of going to the SRT Training Phase 1 course, which is located in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"The schoolhouse training is only two weeks long, but they cram a lot of knowledge in those two weeks," said Good.

For the candidates, the biggest hurdle was signing up.

"It takes a special mentality to be SRT," said Good. "These Marines have heard horror stories of what an (SRT) indoc is. Them willing to sign up and come out for it shows greatly on their part."

For consideration into SRT, the Marines must have a first class PFT and Combat Fitness Test and must be at a minimum rank of lance corporal. However, there's a certain intangible SRT looks for when selecting potential candidates.

"You have to have heart," said Good. "We're pushing and testing them to their physical limits to see if they have heart. If you have the heart to keep going, I can work with you. If you're a second class or low first class PFT, I can get you to a first class. Those are things that can be worked on. If you don't have the heart and determination to do it, I can't work with you."



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Sgt. Kyle Hill, a Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team leader, displays the proper technique for peeking around a corner on a knee to Lance Cpl. Jordan Barcon and Pfc. Edward Dix at the Matthew C. Perry School here April 10, 2012. Five candidates took part in the indoctrination brief, which included memorization drills, room-clearing exercises, step-out drills and weapon disassembly and reassembly.

Long drive, longer days, lasting memories, thankful people



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

ISHINOMAKI, Japan – An It's Not Just Mud volunteer, uses a hand saw to cut through planks of wood used in the construction of a storage shed for local fishermen in Nagatsura March 8, 2012. The community of Nagatsura had been without power since the earthquake and subsequent tsunami which devastated northern Japan March 11, 2011. The shed was built to give local fishermen an area to store fishing gear and to also have an office in the hopes of promoting their fishing business.

Volunteers travel to spread hope, clean up dreams torn in Ishinomaki

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In early March of 2012, a handful of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers traveled to the city of Ishinomaki in the Tohoku region to provide local communities with support through volunteer efforts.

"Thanks to the professionalism of each and every one of the volunteers, we can collectively call this trip a huge success," said Martin Ziola, Jr., Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteer.

For the 39 volunteers who gave their time, five vehicles from aboard station were rented and two personally-owned vehicles were used to make the journey.

Each vehicle safely covered more than 1,500 miles while traversing the majority of Honshu, Japan's main island, and driving to and from working sites daily.

Working across 15 different sites,

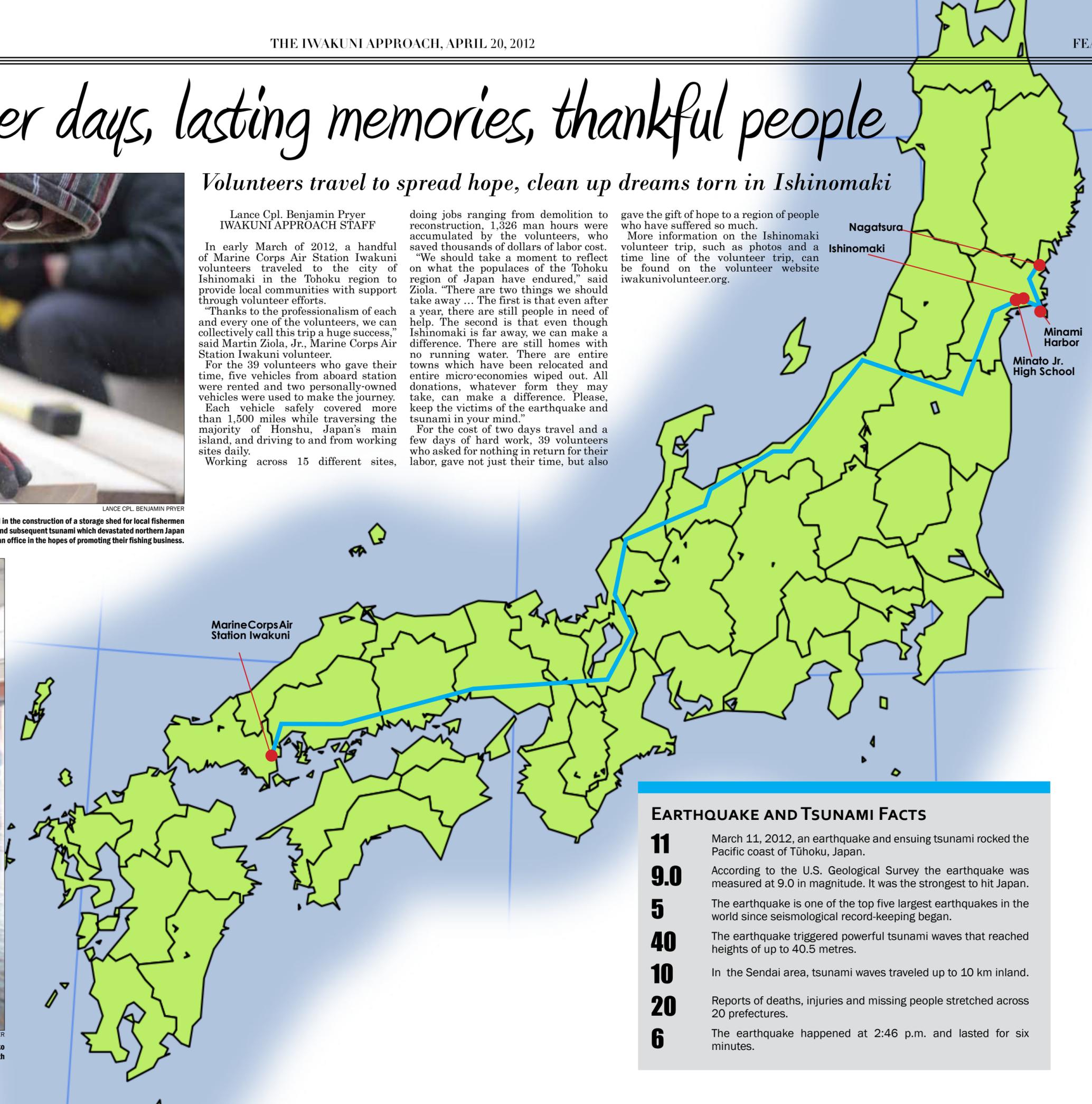
doing jobs ranging from demolition to reconstruction, 1,326 man hours were accumulated by the volunteers, who saved thousands of dollars of labor cost.

"We should take a moment to reflect on what the populace of the Tohoku region of Japan have endured," said Ziola. "There are two things we should take away ... The first is that even after a year, there are still people in need of help. The second is that even though Ishinomaki is far away, we can make a difference. There are still homes with no running water. There are entire towns which have been relocated and entire micro-economies wiped out. All donations, whatever form they may take, can make a difference. Please, keep the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in your mind."

For the cost of two days travel and a few days of hard work, 39 volunteers who asked for nothing in return for their labor, gave not just their time, but also

gave the gift of hope to a region of people who have suffered so much.

More information on the Ishinomaki volunteer trip, such as photos and a time line of the volunteer trip, can be found on the volunteer website iwakunivolunteer.org.



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 had been used as a shelter for locals in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami which struck this area of Japan March 11, 2011.

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI FACTS

- 11** March 11, 2012, an earthquake and ensuing tsunami rocked the Pacific coast of Tohoku, Japan.
- 9.0** According to the U.S. Geological Survey the earthquake was measured at 9.0 in magnitude. It was the strongest to hit Japan.
- 5** The earthquake is one of the top five largest earthquakes in the world since seismological record-keeping began.
- 40** The earthquake triggered powerful tsunami waves that reached heights of up to 40.5 metres.
- 10** In the Sendai area, tsunami waves traveled up to 10 km inland.
- 20** Reports of deaths, injuries and missing people stretched across 20 prefectures.
- 6** The earthquake happened at 2:46 p.m. and lasted for six minutes.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marines continue infrastructure growth in Afghanistan



SGT. MICHELE WATSON

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Gunnery Sgt. Joel Williams, heavy equipment chief, Heavy Equipment Platoon, Support Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), watches while a grader levels the gravel during road construction outside of Forward Operating Base Geronimo, March 23, 2012.

Sgt. Michele Watson
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marines with Support Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) worked tirelessly toward the completion of a 12-kilometer stretch of road.

A road was already in place, but during several severe rainstorms the route was damaged and in desperate need of repair.

“After receiving approval to reconstruct the road, we had to figure out the amount of fuel, equipment and manpower needed to accomplish the mission,” said Gunnery Sergeant Joel Williams, heavy equipment chief, Heavy Equipment Platoon, Support Co., 9th ESB, 1st MLG (Fwd).

To construct a road that can withstand heavy rains, heavy equipment operators used their equipment for a multi-step system. The process created a smooth path similar to roads in America.

First, the Marines used a front loader to load the dump trucks with gravel. The dump trucks then dropped the gravel onto the road. A road grader, which is used to shape the road, leveled out the surface and also made the V-ditches on the side. After the road was shaped, a water truck sprayed down the rock and soil. Once that dried, heavy equipment operators used a compactor to pack the building materials together. This process results in a fast, convenient route of travel.

“While I am in the compactor, my job is to make sure the road is heavily compressed,” said Lance Cpl. Yanet Sierra Trejo, a heavy equipment operator with Heavy Equipment platoon, Support Co., 9th ESB, 1st MLG

(Fwd). “When I am in the [front loader], I have to make sure I put enough gravel in the dump to lay out on the road.”

Although asphalt is not used to create a black top surface like highways in America, when using the adapted road, the difference is hard to notice.

“You can feel how smooth it is when you’re driving on the road,” said Williams. “It’s just like driving on a road back home.”

To counter the effects of water damage, the Marines built V-ditches on both sides of the road for rain to drain into. The road was also built with a small crown.

“Instead of having a flat road, we leave a three to five percent grade crown in the road, so the water goes into the V-ditches during rainfall,” said Cpl. Joshua Reynolds, a heavy equipment operator, Heavy Equipment Platoon, Support Co., 9th ESB, 1st MLG (Fwd).

Road construction always requires the skill of heavy equipment operators, but more was required to accomplish this mission due to the threat of insurgent activity.

“Being in Afghanistan we also have to determine how much security is needed,” said Williams.

During the project, a security team was established to protect the Marines working on the road.

“Before the heavy equipment operators begin their work, we clear the area using mine-rollers to proof the area for [improvised explosive devices],” said Cpl. Jared Hilton, security team leader, 2nd squad, Security Platoon, Support Co., 9th ESB, 1st MLG (Fwd). “Once it’s cleared, the operators can move freely.”

Multiple irrigation trenches and canals

create opportunities for enemy fighters to maneuver and place improvised explosive devices, but added security diminishes the threat.

“Insurgents use the areas we can’t see, like wadis, to move around,” said Hilton. “We post security and keep eyes on all avenues of approach, so the heavy equipment operators can work through the day and focus on their task.”

With the completion of the road, military vehicles as well as local civilians have a faster and safer method of travel.

“The road will allow freedom of movement without worrying about damaging mine-roller wheels or the vehicle itself,” said Williams.

Hilton also discussed the benefit of lessened IED threats.

“Because we add so many rocks, the road is harder, and it’s more difficult to dig holes to plant IEDs in,” said Hilton.

The Marines of Support Company worked well together, and their dedication to the mission brought safety to both military and civilian vehicles and garnered the appreciation of the locals.

“I think these Marines are some of the best I have ever worked with,” said Williams. “They have the ability to deliver and make it happen. They are all positive, so it makes for good end results.”

Hilton also said the efforts of both security and construction go hand in hand.

“We definitely work as one team,” said Hilton. “We all know each other’s jobs and responsibilities, and it helps to make the mission run smooth.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

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 rodrger.wilco@comcast.net.

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.

PMO Lost and Found
Contact the Provost Marshal’s Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the station. For more information, to report lost items or to claim lost items, call 253-4929.

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.

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 along with content only available on Facebook. The page welcomes classified ads posted on the wall. Staff will choose ads weekly to feature 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. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.

10th Annual Iwakuni Kusunoki Fireworks Festival

The 10th annual Iwakuni Kusunoki Fireworks Festival is scheduled to be held May 3, 2012, approximately 1.2 miles West of the station. Schedule of events as follows:

- 11 a.m. Shitoh Ritual
- 12 p.m. Stage events, food/refreshment booths, and other display booths and games
- 7 p.m. Fireworks Opening Ceremony
- 7:30 p.m. Fireworks display
- 8:30 p.m. Fireworks display ends

STAGE EVENTS:

- 12-12:15 p.m. Kawashimo Junior High School Brass Band
- 12:25-12:55 p.m. M.C. Perry School music performance
- 1-1:30 p.m. Hurrah dance
- 1:35-2:05 p.m. Karate demonstration
- 2:15-2:35 p.m. Drum group performance by Mangyoji
- 2:40-3:30 p.m. Hip wrestling match
- 3:35-4:35 p.m. “Hakujaoh” appearance
- 4:45-5:30 p.m. Band performance by “Love Portion”
- 5:40-6 p.m. Iwakuni Daiko drum performance
- 6:20-7 p.m. “Mountain Mouth” live performance
- 7-7:30 p.m. Fireworks Opening Ceremony

KUNI TOONS: BOOKED



Xiana Sanders 4/17/12 xmg

INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education

Mon. – Thurs. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass

Protestant

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
10:30 a.m. Children's Church
10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Meeting
1 p.m. Contemporary
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Service
5:30 p.m. FLOW (Youth Group)

Monday 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Tuesday 9 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
5 p.m. Working Women Bible Study

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Ladies' Tea
5:45 p.m. AWANA (Bldg. 1104)

2nd and 4th Saturday 10:30 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist Meeting

2nd Saturday 7:30 a.m. Men's Discipleship

Bahai

Sunday 11 a.m. Bahai Meeting

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



Kanji Adventures

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

The Shinto ritual of Hiwatari-shiki, or "fire-walking ceremony" takes place in Daisho-in, a historical temple lying in the mountains of Miyajima Island.

The ceremony itself happens twice a year, on April 15 and Nov. 15, and is as a form of prayer to wish for good fortune and health.

A line of monks walk through a crowd of onlookers and make their way to the center of the ceremony ground. They then line up around the wood pile covered in Japanese Cypress, or Hinoki, and begin the ritual.

Once the monks finish the beginning of the ceremony

by purifying the ceremony grounds, the Hinoki and wood pile is lit on fire and the prayers of the onlookers, which are written down on pieces of wood and blessed by the monks, are thrown into the fire.

After the fire burns out, the coals of the blaze are spread in a line through the ceremony ground and the highest ranking of the monks walks over it barefoot.

Going down the line from monks, to mountain priests, to those of the Shinto faith and eventually to all others. Those whom wish to participate may walk across the coals as everyone around continues to chant in praise.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, April 20 2012

7 p.m. Wrath of the Titans (PG-13)
10 p.m. Wanderlust (R)

Saturday, April 21, 2012

4 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)
7 p.m. The Hunger Games (PG-13)

Sunday, April 22, 2012

4 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)
7 p.m. Wrath of the Titans (PG-13)

Monday, April 23, 2012

7 p.m. Ghost Rider: Spirit of vengeance (PG-13)

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Theater Closed

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Theater Closed.

Thursday, April 26, 2012

7 p.m. The Hunger Games (PG-13)

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, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, bear claws, cinnamon crumb top muffin, blueberry pie, velvet pound cake, brownies, chocolate cream pudding parfait, 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 muffins, lemon meringue, devil's food cake, chocolate buttercream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday:

French onion soup, Swiss steak with brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage with bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, snails, quick cherry coffee cake, blueberry pie, white cake, buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday:

New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas with onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, banana cake, buttercream frosting, macadamia coho 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.

Japanese, American athletes run circles around station during Kintai Marathon

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Runners stretched and double checked their shoes, waiting and preparing for the sound of a gunshot.

As the start gun was fired, racers began the long push of the 45th Annual Kintai Marathon here, April 15, 2012.

Marine Corps Community Services hosted the event and allowed Japanese nationals to come on station and compete alongside station residents and the clock to get their best times.

"This is a great opportunity for Americans and Japanese to meet together, especially because the weather is really nice today and I can see their faces," said Mai Tajima, MCCS recreation specialist. "They're having a really good time."

There were five different classes, which separated runners by age.

"For men there was three categories, a 29 and younger group, a 30-49 group, and an over 50 group," said Tajima. "Also for women there were two classes, a 34 and younger group and also a 35 and above group."

There was also a category set aside for teams of two if competitors wished to run together, said Tajima.

The race wasn't only split up through competitors' age groups, but also the amount of ground they covered determined who took home the gold.

"The race includes completing a 10k, a half marathon (approximately 13 miles) and a full marathon (approximately 26 miles)," said Tajima.

The race isn't about the medals for some people though; some just love the thought of completing the race.

"For us it's really fun because there's a little bit of competition, but everyone is here with one goal in mind, and that's to finish the race," said Luke Peet, marathon runner.

The ability to simply complete the race takes training and keeps competitors fit and healthy.

"I think more importantly, it's about getting out and doing physical activity," said Peet. "Instead of sitting on the couch, I'm running 26.2 miles, no big deal."



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Racers take off from the starting line after setting their watches to help pace themselves for the Kintai Marathon around Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni April 15, 2012. Racers began clumped together, but the pack quickly thinned as many racers sped past or dropped behind others.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Racers take their first steps from the starting line while setting their watches to help pace themselves for the Kintai Marathon around Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni April 15, 2012. There were five different classes, which separated runners by age.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Racers grab water, sports drinks and snacks as they race by a hydration stand during the Kintai Marathon around Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni April 15, 2012. Stands were placed along the track to keep runners' bodies in the best condition during the race.

MARATHON FACTS

- This is the 45th Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Kintai Marathon.
- 877 racers competed in either the full, half or 10k.
- 1st place in the full marathon were Nobuhisa Tanigawa for the males and Hiromi Saitoh for the females.
- 1st place in the half marathon were Hiroya Etoh for the males and Nozoe Matsuda for the females.
- 1st place in the 10 kilometer were Hiroyuki Kawai for the males and Tomoe Nakagawa for the females.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the April 21, 1972, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on the Child Care Center offering baby-sitting services, the Charles Freeman Singers performing at the Sakura Theater, the 50th anniversary of Marine aviation ordnance, the Iwakuni Flying Club holding a membership drive and the beginning of Little League tryouts aboard the station.

New assignments and plans for four Marine generals

Headquarters Marine Corps — New assignments for two general officers and the retirement plans of two others have been announced by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Major General Robert G. Owens, currently the Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, will retire June 30.

Major General Arthur H. Adams, currently Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, will become deputy chief of staff to the Commander in Chief, Atlantic. He will replace Major General Norman J. Anderson who will retire on June 30.

Brigadier General William H. Langan Jr., will move to Headquarters Marine Corps from duty as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, J-3, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. The Vietnam billet will be eliminated on May 1 due to a planned reduction in strength.

Civilian clothes ok with the airlines

Servicemen flying at reduced rates on commercial airlines can travel in civilian attire. The new policy affects leave and liberty and applies to all domestic U. S. airlines involved in interstate commerce. Most airlines offering reduced military fare require that servicemen provide them with a copy of DD form 1580; however some just require a valid active duty identification card. Persons planning to fly at reduced fare should check with the appropriate airline to determine its policies.

Repairs will close mainside "E" club

Starting Monday, the Mainside Enlisted Club will be closed for approximately three months due to renovation. For anyone desiring transportation to the Wingside Enlisted Club, there will be buses running every half hour from 4:30 to 12:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Messhalls open

The **Torii Teller** regrets an error in last week's issue. In the notice of the snack-bar closures it should have been worded:

"All PX activities will be closed for an employee's trip on Sunday, April 30. Affected by the closure will be self-service, cafeteria, service station, school, terminal, Sakura, golf, bowling, and Main PX snack-bars. All will close for the day, but regular service will resume on Monday. The messhalls will remain open."

Machine - readable fitness reports put into action

Headquarters Marine Corps — Those new machine readable fitness reports that have been generating a lot of interest will be adopted May 1.

That's the word from Headquarters in ALMAR 26 which told field commanders to start requisition procedures now to ensure that the document is on hand for the effective date.

The new performance evaluation order which will guide reporting seniors in preparing the reports will be distributed to the field about mid-April, according to the ALMAR.

A prototype of the new form was tested at several major East Coast commands during late 1970 and was found to be practical and desirable. Information from the reports will also be used to build automated files in support of the assignment and promotion functions of Headquarters.

San Diego

filling up fast

The National Republican Convention takes place in San Diego August 6 - 26, 1972. It is anticipated that hotel and motel accommodations will not be available immediately prior to and during this period. In view of the lack of accommodations that will be available it is suggested that only essential travel be conducted to the San Diego area during this period.

Four Marines among Navy League winners

Headquarters Marine Corps — Four Marines are among the winners of 1972 Navy League Awards and will be honored by the league during its annual convention in Charleston, S. C., May 16-19.

Staff Sergeant Leamond F. Lacy, a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, will receive the General Gerald C. Thomas Award for the "high calibre of leadership and professional competence he has consistently demonstrated while serving as a drill instructor." The award is given annually to a Marine enlisted man who has demonstrated outstanding leadership capabilities.

The Stephen Decatur Award will be presented to Colonel Albert C. Pommerenk for his performance of duty as Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group Eleven (MAG-11) in Vietnam, from June 1970 to June 1971. The award is for operational competence and is presented to a Navy or Marine officer or enlisted man.

Col. Pommerenk, a brigadier general selectee, is cur-

rently assigned to the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment at the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif.

LtCol. Donald K. Cliff, a member of the staff of commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, will receive the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement. LtCol. Cliff will be cited for his research paper entitled "Soviet Naval Infantry: A New Capability," which he prepared while attending the Naval War College, Newport, R. I., during the 1970-71 academic year.

Captain Robert W. Gehring, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 3d Marine Division, has been named the winner of the Navy Judge Advocate's Writing Award. His article entitled "Legal Rules Affecting Military Uses of the Seabed" appeared in the Fall 1971 Military Law Review, and was described as the best publication of the year by a Navy Judge Advocate. The winners will receive a scroll and an inscribed diamond-studded watch.