

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 18 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Friendship spreads through spectators | p. 6&7

SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Capt. Timothy Farag, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 242 pilot, poses for a picture with Japanese children during Friendship Day here May 5, 2012. Static displays and booths filled with food, clothing and other items blanketed the flight line along with more than 285,000 spectators, some traveling hundreds of miles to participate in the air show.

The Ready Group increases readiness

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 realigned from Marine Wing Support Group 17 in Camp Foster, Okinawa, to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's Marine Aircraft Group 12 in a realignment ceremony which took place on the parade deck here May 4, 2012.

The ceremony crested during the changing of guidons as Col. James M. Gannon, MWSG-17 commanding officer, and Col. Christopher J. Mahoney, MAG-12 commanding officer, shook hands in agreement, proudly and faithfully transferring authority of MWSS-171.

Gannon spoke to all attending about MWSS-171's accomplishments, the plethora of operations and exercises they supported and the innumerable times they proved to always be ready in support of any task or mission.

"MWSS-171 is a very high performing

unit, who live up to their motto, 'Ready for all things,' said Gannon. "Their mission is to provide deployable, expeditionary Marine Corps aviation support in any clime and place. They have to be able to leave on short notice and enable sortie generation right away. I'm not sure there's any other military in the world with such an organization as a Marine wing support squadron."

Gannon took time to directly address the MWSS-171 servicemembers and then Mahoney.

"To the Marines and sailors of MWSS-171, I'm very proud of you and all you have accomplished. You've met and exceeded all the readiness expectations in 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, you've upheld standards and core values across the board. I've been honored to be your group commander. Please continue to give Col. Mahoney your best efforts. To Col. Mahoney, know that I'm turning

SEE REALIGNMENT ON PAGE 3

VMFA(AW)-242 receives new Batman

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A former F/A-18 pilot with Marine Aircraft Group 12 for the past year took command of the Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 here May 4, 2012, in a change-of-command ceremony.

Lt. Col. Bruce D. Gordon succeeded Lt. Col. Richard E. Petersen, who served two years as the commanding officer of VMFA(AW)-242, also known as the "Bats."

"I'd like to thank the leadership for the opportunity to command such a fine organization," said Gordon. "I feel privileged and honored to be able to walk the path of those that have gone before me."

There have been many leaders of the Bats, but Col. Christopher J. Mahoney and Petersen, two of the most recent commanding officers of VMFA(AW)-242,

SEE BATMAN ON PAGE 3



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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Lost and Found'

CMDR. DEAN L. HOELZ
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 A couple of weeks ago I went to Yokosuka Naval Base for a medical evacuation, it was my first time there.

Since there wasn't room on base, I stayed at the Central Hotel in town. I arrived late Sunday afternoon and decided to walk to the Navy base for some leisurely exercise. As I walked, I made certain mental notes along the way of all the important landmarks because I planned to walk back later that evening. Well, evening came and I started my walk back to the Central Hotel.

As always, everything looks different at night. The landmarks which I thought I could easily identify were in fact, hard to spot. After about a half an hour, I saw what I thought was the same tunnel I had walked through on my way to the base; this brought me momentary relief, until a short distance later, I saw two other tunnels, going in different directions.

It was now 9:30 p.m., shops were closed and the streets were nearly rolled up. The upside to all this

was I was getting some exercise, of course the downside was, I was lost, completely lost. I should mention my Japanese-language skills are even worse than my navigational skills.

After much hesitation, I stopped at a 7/11 and made a meager attempt to ask for directions in Japanese to the Central Hotel. The lady at the counter asked if I was taking a taxi or a bus. I explained I was walking. The look on her face told me one of two things: either she did not understand me, or she couldn't believe I was walking that far! With a few inaudible grunts followed by an "Eto" here and there she drew a map for me. We both walked out to the front of the store. She oriented the map in her hand and began to explain where I had to go.

As I politely listened there was an annoying voice in my head saying, "I'm wasting my time." I tried to ignore it as she spoke. In the middle of her monologue, a gentleman and his daughter were standing nearby on the curb next to their van watching us. I could tell they were half way listening to our conversation and they slowly walked over. They spoke with the store clerk and at the end of their conversation bows were exchanged, and the father and daughter motioned with their hands inviting me into their van. I felt a sigh of relief as I got in the van. The daughter used the van's GPS to locate the hotel and in about fifteen minutes we safely

arrived at my destination. All I could say was "Arigato Gozaimas" repeatedly; I wish I could have said more.

I like to think that I have a good sense of direction, but I don't. I like to believe I always know where I am going and that I can always find my own way, but I cannot. I've learned to stop and ask for help, this has not come easy for me as I have gotten older. I've had to develop some degree of courage and humility, and both take a lot of practice. Getting lost is easy; stopping to ask for help is hard. During my life's journey, I've learned I need the right people in my life to sometimes literally take me by the hand and lead me. I've learned sometimes, my ways and my paths don't always get me where I need to go. In fact, some of my ways and best-made plans have gotten me completely lost in a world of frustration, bitterness, resentment, fearfulness, anxiety, etc. Life is a daily journey and I continue to be reminded that when I am willing to pause, and on occasion, step into a 7/11 as God always seems to send the right person into my life, take me by the hand and set me on the right path.

So the bottom line is this: if you find yourself on an unfamiliar path, if you cannot interpret the signpost along the way, then pause and ask the one who directs all things and you will be surprised who God places in your life, to lead, guide and bring you safely home.

Mementos left at Iwo To during day trip



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

IWO TO — Dog tags, chevrons, and other Marine Corps paraphernalia shown is left on top of Mount Sirabachi. Marines leave mementoes in memory of the 26,000 casualties Marines suffered during World War II in 1945. Sixty eight Marines and sailors from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron traveled to Iwo To, previously known as Iwo Jima, to learn about Marine Corps history and conduct several promotions and a reenlistment during a ceremony at the top of Mount Sirabachi here May 1, 2012. Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, H&S commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, H&S sergeant major, led the Marines and sailors to the top of Mount Sirabachi. The Marines made stops in order to elaborate on the history of the battle and give servicemembers an opportunity to bring back the black volcanic sand found at Iwo To. This is the first time in two years H&S has been able to make this trip.

REALIGNMENT FROM PAGE 1

over a well-led, ready and capable squadron to you and MAG-12. They've been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation and they have two Meritorious Unit Commendation Awards. You can be justifiably proud to gain 'America's Squadron.' I'm confident we're ready to turn over the squadron and I know you're ready to put them to the test at Guam and Tinian later this month for Exercise Geiger Fury. Good luck to you and your Marines in MAG-12, take care of the squadron and Semper Fidelis."

Mahoney took his place on this podium, stating while the realignment was done to further assist in the downsizing of the Marine Corps, strength hasn't been lost, but gained in this transition of units.

"For the people who know me, part of my vision is developing fear, legitimate fear, out of respect for our combat power, so any who would wish us harm, when they think about messing with Marine Aircraft Group 12, they better be afraid," said Mahoney. "After this day, they better be a lot more afraid. The last few days have not only been an education, but an inspiration. Walking around and seeing these Marines, what they do on a daily basis and what they will bring to the 'fear factory'. To everyone here, mark my words, if MAG-12 is not more ready, if we do not export more fear, you can have my colors. Semper Fidelis."



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Col. Christopher J. Mahoney, Marine Aircraft Group 12 commanding officer, speaks to those attending the realignment ceremony of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 from Marine Wing Support Group 17 to MAG-12 on the parade deck here, May 4, 2012. The realignment was done as part of the Marine Corps wide drawdown, but will not degrade the strength of MWSS-171.

BATMAN FROM PAGE 1

showed they were glad to entrust Gordon with the title of VMFA(AW)-242 commanding officer.

After Petersen passed on the responsibilities of commanding officer to Gordon, the Bats' focus is on the next level of readiness and to apply effective combat power, at a moment's notice, said Gordon.

"I have watched (the bats) from a distance over the last six months, and I have been impressed," said Gordon.

VMFA(AW)-242 servicemembers prides themselves on being ready for anything and always being combat effective.

"The Bats already project fear into the hearts and souls of anyone who wishes to do us harm, they are ready," said Petersen. "I feel like I'm turning over the ranks into really good hands."

Gordon has served in several capacities here, including schedules officer,

powerline division officer, logistics officer and has participated in many training deployments throughout the Pacific as a part of the "Lancers" of VMFA-212.

Gordon then served with the "Hawks" of VMFA(AW)-533 and completed a deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He also deployed to the Pacific Area of Responsibility under the Unit Deployment Program as a part of the "Checkerboards" of VMFA-312 who were originally located at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

This new assignment is a combination of the efforts of my fellow Marines in addition to my own, said Gordon.

During his 18 years of service, Gordon has performed a multitude of tasks and leadership roles, and now faces the challenge and responsibilities as the commanding officer of VMFA(AW)-242.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEX

Lt. Col. Richard E. Petersen, former Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 commanding officer, passes the United States Marine Corps colors to new Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Bruce D. Gordon during a traditional ceremony here May 4, 2012.

VMFA(AW)-242 BAT FACTS

- Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 was deactivated Nov. 23, 1945 and was reactivated Oct. 1, 1960.
- Lt. Col. Richard E. Petersen earned his "Wings of Gold" in 1996.
- Gordon is originally from Medford, Oregon.

- Gordon has been deployed to Africa and Kuwait.
- Both Gordon and Petersen have supported Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Gordon was part of the "Lancers," the "Checkerboards," and the "Hawks."
- Petersen was deployed to Egypt, Kuwait, and Kyrgyzstan.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Men and women dressed as Iwakuni Matchlock gun infantry form a line of battle to demonstrate the functioning capabilities of the Matchlock gun muskets during the age of Feudal Japan during the Sankin-kotai festival at the Kintai Bridge April 29, 2012. It is said the Iwakuni gun infantry was in line of maintaining gun manual formed by Ishida Mitsunari, a key figure in the battle of Sekigahara in 1600.

Daimyo marches to Edo in modern Japan

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

During the age of Feudal Japan, each Daimyo (Japanese feudal lord) was required by the Tokugawa Shogunate to report at least every other year in the capital city of Edo, now Tokyo.

This display of loyalty is called the Sankin-kotai, the Daimyo's annual march to Edo.

During the Edo period, Sankin-kotai was more than just a form of military service each Daimyo owed to the Shogun. It also helped to quell any hostile intentions the Daimyo may have toward the Shogun.

The expenses the Lord had to pay so his soldiers may accompany him were vast. This made it easier for the Shogun to control his Daimyo because they could not afford to raise an army in revolt. This practice became law in 1635.

Today, there are no more Daimyo, but local Japanese honor this ancient tradition in a festival held every year on April 29 to commemorate the Daimyo and his entourage's march to Edo.

Occupants of Iwakuni and station residents dressed in Edo period Samurai attire and put on displays of skill and knowledge during the festival.

A Matchlock firearms display commemorated Iwakuni's gun infantry of the time, said to have

been formed by Hiroie Kikkawa, first Iwakuni castle lord, who applied skill manuals established by Ishida Mitsunari, who was a key figure in the battle of Sekigahara in 1600.

Local school bands performed music for patrons. Throughout the park, Martial arts exhibitions and traditional Japanese tea ceremonies kept the crowds enthralled.

As attendees ventured through Kintai park, they found several Japanese antique displays with traditional swords, fans, cloth and much more.

"This is my first time to Japan," said Hannah Koscheski, festival attendee. "This festival is something anyone passing through or staying in Iwakuni should see. I am glad I went and had the chance to experience Japanese culture, both modern and ancient."

Toward the end of the day, the final gala paraded across the ancient Kintai Bridge and through Kintai park, which featured a vast number of participants who simulated the actual march to Edo.

Many traveled from across Japan to witness this centuries-old event.

With more than 40,000 attendees each year, the Sankin-kotai festival is one of the largest annual tourist attractions in Iwakuni.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Two station residents, dressed as lady followers, walk in the final gala across the Kintai Bridge and through Kintai park April 29, 2012 as part of the Sankin-kotai, the Daimyo's annual March through Edo. During the age of Feudal Japan, each Daimyo (Japanese feudal lord) was required by the Tokugawa Shogunate to report at least every other year in the capital city of Edo, now Tokyo.

Servicemembers prepare to rid themselves of vehicles to PCS

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Permanent Change of Station season is coming. Though there are many who PCS throughout the year, the summer months seem to be the busiest time for leaving.

Many may scramble to ensure they can leave the station in a smooth and timely manner. One aspect many servicemembers about to PCS will find themselves having to deal with is selling their vehicles.

Servicemembers who sell their car must complete a few basic but crucial steps to ensure the transition from base to base is smooth.

"The Pass and Registration department of the Provost Marshal's Office is here to aid those servicemembers," said Barry E. Harwell, PMO Pass and Registration supervisor.

"They need to make sure they have a buyer for the vehicle or decide whether to junk the vehicle," said Harwell.

"If they have a buyer to purchase the vehicle, e.g., another Status of Forces Agreement member, they would need to make sure the other SOFA member doesn't exceed the vehicle requirements, two vehicles for those married and one for single individuals. They would also need to make sure their up on their Japanese Compulsory Insurance and secondary insurance," said Harwell.

Servicemembers who buy the vehicle must also attend the welcome-aboard brief and have a SOFA license.

Servicemembers going through the PCS process but cannot or do not wish to find a buyer for the car have certain steps they must take to rid themselves of their vehicle.

"If they want to de-register(sic) the vehicle and not sell it to someone else, that means they're going to send it to the junk pile," said Harwell.

If that method of vehicle removal is not suitable, another route available is to sell their vehicles back to auto dealerships.

"If we use TNT automotive dealership as an example, if my car is not functional enough to sell to someone else, doesn't pass JCI inspection or time is too short here before they PCS, then servicemembers can go to a place like TNT and they will receive the vehicle, take the decal off the car, give the receipt to me which in turn they will (bring) back to Pass and Registration which shows TNT now has the vehicle in their possession and then receive paperwork to take back to the vehicle. This will allow them to deregister the vehicle properly through the Land Transportation Office," said Harwell.

Servicemembers must ensure their vehicular responsibilities are not a concern when they permanently leave the station, otherwise the process will be long, arduous and a headache. If servicemembers remember to follow these simple steps, they can avert those troubles.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Personally owned vehicles, such as this 1992 Autozam Scrom, are one of several vehicles which may be bought and sold by station residents when performing a Permanent Change of Station here. Accompanied servicemembers are allowed a total of two vehicles while unaccompanied servicemembers are only allowed one.

PCS BY THE NUMBERS...

- 2** Accompanied servicemembers are allowed up to two registered vehicles and must bring in orders showing they are accompanied for the second vehicle.
- 1** Unaccompanied servicemembers are only allowed one registered vehicle while stationed here.
- 14** Begin the process of selling a car 14 days ahead of time in order to properly sell the vehicle.
- 5** E-5s and below are required to obtain authorization from their commanding officer before purchasing a vehicle.
- 20** It takes approximately 20 minutes to register purchased vehicles at the Provost Marshal's Office Pass and Registration if all documentation is in order.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

A row of personally owned vehicles stretches from one end of the street to the other in front of Building 1 here. Servicemembers who own POVs are required to register their vehicles with the Provost Marshal's Office Pass and Registration Officer.

FRIENDSHIP DAY 2012

Station celebrates with more than 285,000 friends

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The skies opened and the sun shone brightly across Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni as planes soared and people celebrated Friendship Day 2012 here, May 5, 2012.

Since 1973, and even before then under other names, Friendship Day has been one of the greatest opportunities for Japanese near and far to come aboard the air station. This special day of aerobatic stunts has strengthened cultural ties between Marines in Japan and their hosts throughout the years.

"The biggest goal of today is for local Japanese to have a better appreciation for what the Marine Corps is, what we are about, how individual Marines look and how they act," said Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general. "It's an important day for us to be on our best behavior and put a good foot forward. From what I've seen so far today while walking around, the Japanese are fascinated by us and our

uniforms and I think they'll leave here with a favorable impression of what a Marine is."

The day started with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band marching from the gate three flightline entrance to the main viewing area, where thousands of Japanese visitors had already flocked.

"This event opens up the gates of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to the folks who live in the area, who typically don't have access to the base and I'm sure most of them are curious as to what goes on over here," said Beydler. "This is a great way to show the Japanese how much we appreciate what they have done for us as a host nation. The Japanese are largely responsible for the infrastructure on the station. I think this gives them a good view of what they're doing to support U.S. military capabilities on their home soil."

Along with continual flight demonstrations which took place over the airfield, static displays, attractions for children and vending booths covered a huge area of the air station.

More than 285,000 Japanese guests swarmed the attractions from a hot rod

car display to the historic "Zero" hangar, a battle-scarred Japanese Imperial Navy fighter hangar near the main entrance.

For as many Japanese who walked around the static displays and took pictures with local Marines, even more could be seen with cameras, constantly filming the aerobatic demonstration.

"This month marks our 100th anniversary of Marine aviation," said Col. James C. Stewart, MCAS Iwakuni commanding officer. "This Friendship Day is a phenomenal opportunity to demonstrate all our capabilities to the local community."

"We're members of the community. Whether you live inside or outside the fence line," said Stewart. "The whole reason for this station to exist is for the ability to project and sustain our combat power as the closest forward deployed point to the Asia mainland, it's important we can provide demonstrable proof we are always ready to fight and win."

"I couldn't have asked for a better day, a better event, better people to help us celebrate this Friendship Day 2012," said Stewart.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

A Japanese spectator takes a photo of Blue Impulse during Friendship Day 2012 here, May 5, 2012. Friendship Day brought more than 285,000 spectators aboard the station to partake in static displays, American and Japanese vendors and a day-long air show.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

Blue Impulse planes fly over Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni while performing aerobatic stunts during Friendship Day here, May 5, 2012. The events for the day also included static displays, bouncy houses and other attractions for children and a plethora of booths placed around the airfield.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

III Marine Expeditionary Force band Marine musicians perform during the opening of Friendship Day here May 5, 2012. Friendship Day brought more than 285,000 spectators aboard the station to partake in static displays, American and Japanese vendors and a day-long air show.

FRIENDSHIP DAY FACTS

- III MEF and JMSDF bands performed rehearsal selections for Friendship Day.
- Friendship Day was cancelled in 2011 due to the relief efforts involved in Operation Tomodachi.
- Friendship Day was previously called Armed Forces Day.
- 30,000 guests was the lowest turnout on record for Friendship Day in 1974.
- The earliest records of Armed Forces Day are from 1960.
- 2012 has had one of the largest turnouts on record at more than 285,000 guests. Due to the amount of guests inbound traffic was discontinued at 1:30 p.m.
- Friendship Day has been cancelled three times since 1973.

"We're members of the community, whether you live inside or outside the fence line. The whole reason for this station to exist is for the ability to project and sustain our combat power as the closest forward deployed point to the Asian mainland, it's important we can provide that demonstrable proof that we are always ready to fight and to win."

Col. James C. Stewart, MCAS Iwakuni commanding Officer

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. Dakota L. Meyer, climbs into a T/AV-8B Harrier April 20 aboard Kentucky Air National Guard Base. Meyer was getting into the Harrier to get a brief on the cockpit and become familiar with the aircraft before flying in the Harrier during the Thunder Over Louisville air show April 21. Marine Attack Training Squadron 203 provided the Harrier for Meyer to fly in during the air show.



LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. Dakota L. Meyer, flies in a T/AV-8B Harrier with Lt. Col. Robert J. Falls, executive officer of Marine Attack Training Squadron 203, during the Thunder Over Louisville air show April 21 in Louisville, Ky. VMAT-203 provided the Harrier for Meyer to fly in during the air show. "This is my first time ever flying in a Harrier, but I've seen Top Gun about a dozen times," said Meyer. "If Tom Cruise can handle flying a jet, then I can, too. I just hope I don't throw-up."

Dakota Meyer 'co-pilots' 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Harrier over Louisville air show



LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. Dakota L. Meyer tests his flight suit in a parachute simulator April 20 aboard Kentucky Air National Guard Base, before his flight on a T/AV-8B Harrier during the Thunder Over Louisville air show April 21. Marine Attack Training Squadron 203, based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, provided the Harrier for the flight. "This is my first time ever flying in a harrier, but I've seen Top Gun about a dozen times," said Meyer. "If Tom Cruise can handle flying a jet then I can too. I just hope I don't throw-up."

LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
CHERRY POINT, N.C.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — From Medal of Honor recipient to Marine co-pilot, Sgt. Dakota L. Meyer flew back seat in a Marine Harrier over his home state of Kentucky during the 2012 Thunder Over Louisville air show April 21, 2012.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point based Marine Attack Training Squadron 203 facilitated the flight in a two-seat training variant of the tactical single-seat Harrier.

"This is my first time ever flying in a Harrier, but I've seen Top Gun about a dozen times," said Meyer. "If Tom Cruise can handle flying in a jet, then I can too. I just hope I don't throw-up."

VMAT-203 is the only squadron in the American military that flies the two-seated T/AV-8B Harrier. The training version takes off and lands vertically like its tactical counterpart. The additional seat allows for pilot instructors and students to fly together, something that worked well for Meyer.

Lt. Col. Robert J. Falls, executive officer for the squadron, was at the controls for Meyer's flight.

"What Dakota Meyer and the medal represent is a big deal for the Marine Corps and for this squadron," said Falls. "It's a privilege to fly with Meyer."

Meyer's first feel for being a pilot came when VMAT-203 Marines fitted him for his specialized flight suit and gear a day in advance of the air show.

"It was horrible getting fitted

and all suited up," said Meyer. "I don't envy pilots at all, that gear is uncomfortable."

Pfc. Jaime A. Cardoza, flight equipment technician with the squadron, said he never thought he would be suiting up a Medal of Honor recipient.

"It was an honor to meet him," Cardoza said.

Growing up in Greensburg, Ky., nearly 80 miles away, Meyer watched the air show on TV and he said that "Thunder Over Louisville" was the talk of the town.

"Everyone was always talking about 'What's going on at Thunder,'" said Meyer. "It's a big deal, so it's going to be awesome to be part of what I always used to watch on TV."

The squadron Marines supporting the show spent a little time with the Medal of Honor recipient, as many worked with him in preparation for the flight. Lance Cpl. Jacob M. Heaton, an ejection seat mechanic with the squadron, had one-on-one time with Meyer teaching him how to safely arm and disarm the ejection seat and explaining to him the basic cockpit controls.

"It's not every day you get to meet a Medal of Honor recipient," said Heaton. "I feel grateful to be able to work the air show and support Sgt. Meyer."

Meyer thanked the Marines of VMAT-203 and said he loves any chance to spend time with Marines.

"I miss being in the Marine Corps more than anything in the world," said Meyer. "The Marine Corps is by far the greatest institution on the face of the planet."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Station Air Conditioning

The station's air conditioning is not on yet, but when it is turned on it must be set between 78 and 85 degrees. This applies to base housing and work spaces. Facilities and family housing will monitor buildings to ensure cooperation. Air conditioning will be turned on when temperatures reach 78 degrees for three consecutive days by Marine Corps Order.

Wounded Warriors Craft Fair

There is a craft fair benefiting Wounded Warriors scheduled at Yujo Hall Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Ms. Sharp at 253-2619.

Wireless Access Points

Several wireless internet locations aboard the station have inappropriate names. Please remember who might see the names of your wireless location before choosing a name that may

be offensive or disrespectful. Some locations which have been identified are family housing near M.C. Perry Schools and the bachelor enlisted quarters.

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 rodder.wilco@comcast.net.

Kaplan University Scholarships

The American Freedom Foundation has partnered with Kaplan University to provide more than one million dollars in scholarships to spouses and dependent children of U.S. servicemembers. Applications are due by June 1. For more information, visit, <http://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/aff/>.

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.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

Put these numbers in your wallet and phone:
• 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.

Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like to be published. You may submit your brief or advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process and ensure. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

KUNI TOONS: SERVICE FEE



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

怪獣 – kaijū – “strange beast,” translated into English as “monster.”
怪獣映画 – kaijū eiga – “monster movie.”
大怪獣 – daikaijū – “giant monster.”

Kaiju, translated into English as “monster,” are any number of traditional and magical creatures which appear in Japanese mythology and folklore. This does not limit description to these constructs, as for many Americans, this can include vampires, werewolves, mummies and generally, any and all monsters.

Kaiju grew in popularity to the point where monster movies, or “kaiju eiga,” became a subculture and a symbol of Japan.

Over time, a sub genre of kaiju and kaiju eiga came into existence in the form of daikaiju, or “giant monster.”

Some examples of daikaiju are Toho's Mothra and Rodan. The most famous and popular of all Toho's kaiju, and kaiju in general, is Godzilla.

The kaiju culture has grown outside of Japan and continues to attract people from across the globe.

Kanji Adventures



SAKURA THEATER

Friday, May 11, 2012 7 p.m. A Thousand Words (PG-13) 10 p.m. Silent House (R)	Monday, May 14, 2012 7 p.m. John Carter (PG-13)
Saturday, May 12, 2012 4 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 7 p.m. John Carter (PG-13)	Tuesday, May 15, 2012 Theater Closed
Sunday, May 13, 2012 4 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 7 p.m. Jump Street (R)	Wednesday, May 16, 2012 Theater Closed
	Thursday, May 17, 2012 7 p.m. Silent House (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

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.
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Professional Marine balances being a professional wrestler

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF



Sgt. Gaylon Summers, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ground safety manager and aspiring professional wrestler, performs a lateral pull-down at the IronWorks Gym here May 8, preparing himself for the many months of training he is expecting to receive in New Japan Pro-Wrestling's dojo in Tokyo. Summers is a lifelong professional wrestling fan and is realizing his dream of becoming a professional wrestler as well.

What do Randy Orton, the “Road Dogg” Jesse James and Chuck Palumbo all have in common? All three men were Marines and professional wrestlers sometime in their careers.

Sgt. Gaylon Summers, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ground safety manager, hopes to be counted among those who have handled the stress of being a Marine and professional wrestler.

Summers, a Dyersburg, Tenn., native, has the tall, massive physique many would expect of a professional wrestler.

As fate would have it, Summers became a professional wrestler on a whim.

“It’s always something I’ve wanted to do,” said Summers. “When I was stationed at Cherry Point, I heard a commercial for an independent wrestling show at a local gym. I asked for the contact information to the guy they were interviewing to see if there was any type of wrestling school near there. They said they didn’t, but were able to get me in contact with some other wrestlers and I started wrestling with them.”

Summers has been an avid fan of professional wrestling since he was a small child.

He spent many evenings with his relatives, watching the likes of Hulk Hogan, Randy “Macho Man” Savage, and many other big-name wrestling stars from yesteryear. He was attracted to the spectacle and athleticism he saw on the screen.

“I started watching it when I was three or four years old,” said Summers. “Memphis wrestling

was really big in the 80s and 90s and my grandfather was a big wrestling fan. Every Saturday morning, when I was staying with him, I would get up and watch that with him.”

After some time, Summers gradually spread his horizons to take in any and all wrestling programs he could.

“It got to the point where even if I wasn’t there, I was watching it,” said Summers. “I started watching World Championship Wrestling, the National Wrestling Alliance and World Wrestling Entertainment.”

Upon becoming stationed here, Summers has wrestled various independent promotions in Japan. He eventually earned a try-out with New Japan Pro-Wrestling and was told he had made the cut to train at their dojo in coming months.

“I’m excited,” said Summers. Summers credits the Marine

Corps with instilling the type of discipline and confidence needed to consistently train as a wrestler.

“A lot of people think because it’s a scripted sport, it’s easy, it’s not,” Summers. “It’s given me a lot of discipline to push through the training. As much as I love it, there are some mornings when I’m hurting from training. I think it can only help because New Japan’s dojo, along with (Stampede Wrestling’s) Dungeon, are the two toughest places to train. If I didn’t have my Marine Corps background, I’d be a little more nervous going in there. I’m still nervous, but I don’t look at it as something I can’t do. I just know it’s going to be difficult.”

Though Summers is a diehard wrestling fan, he still is a man who juggles the responsibilities of being a Marine and family man, with a family who supports him.

“The first time I experienced it with him was when we watched it

on T.V.,” said Sarah E. Summers. “At that point in time he had never actually wrestled.”

Sarah thought her husband’s desire to wrestle was just a weekend hobby.

“I didn’t know it would grow into what it has,” said Sarah. “I thought it was going to be something he did for fun.”

Now she has seen her husband’s genuine love for wrestling and lends her full support to his endeavors, trying to attend as many shows as possible.

Summers hopes he can open more Marines’ eyes to professional wrestling by eventually having New Japan and other wrestling promotions come and perform shows on base.

“I believe a lot of Marines would be open to it, even ones who aren’t really into wrestling,” said Summers. “It would also be good to show the wrestling promotions, Marines like to see it.”



Sgt. Gaylon Summers, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ground safety manager and aspiring professional wrestler, grapples with Azteca, a wrestler, at an outdoor match in Fukuoka, Japan, May 4. Summers was awarded an opportunity to train in New Japan Pro-Wrestling's dojo in the coming months.

SAMURAI SPORTS UPDATES

■ The Samurai Girl's soccer team had another successful weekend, beating E. J. King 2-0 on Friday and 5-1 on Saturday. Sierra Apple led the team with three goals, followed by Samantha Herritt with two goals. Miranda Allen and Dana Alfafara scored their first goals of the season. These were the last two games of the regular season, giving us a regular season record of 11-5-2. Our next games will be during the Far East tournament hosted by MC Perry from May 21 - 25.

■ The boy's soccer team competed this last weekend against the E. J. King Cobras at Nimitz Park in Sasebo. The Samurais won a tight match on Friday 2-0, with Tyelor Apple notching his 60th goal of the season and Jay Cone-Murakami heading home from a corner as well. On Saturday, the Samurai de-fanged the Cobras again 4-1. Gaku Lange scored three times for the hat trick and Calvin Barker hit a clinical left-footer to seal the deal. The Samurai have a record of 28-3-2 going into the Far East tournament at beautiful Camp Humphreys, the Republic of Korea.

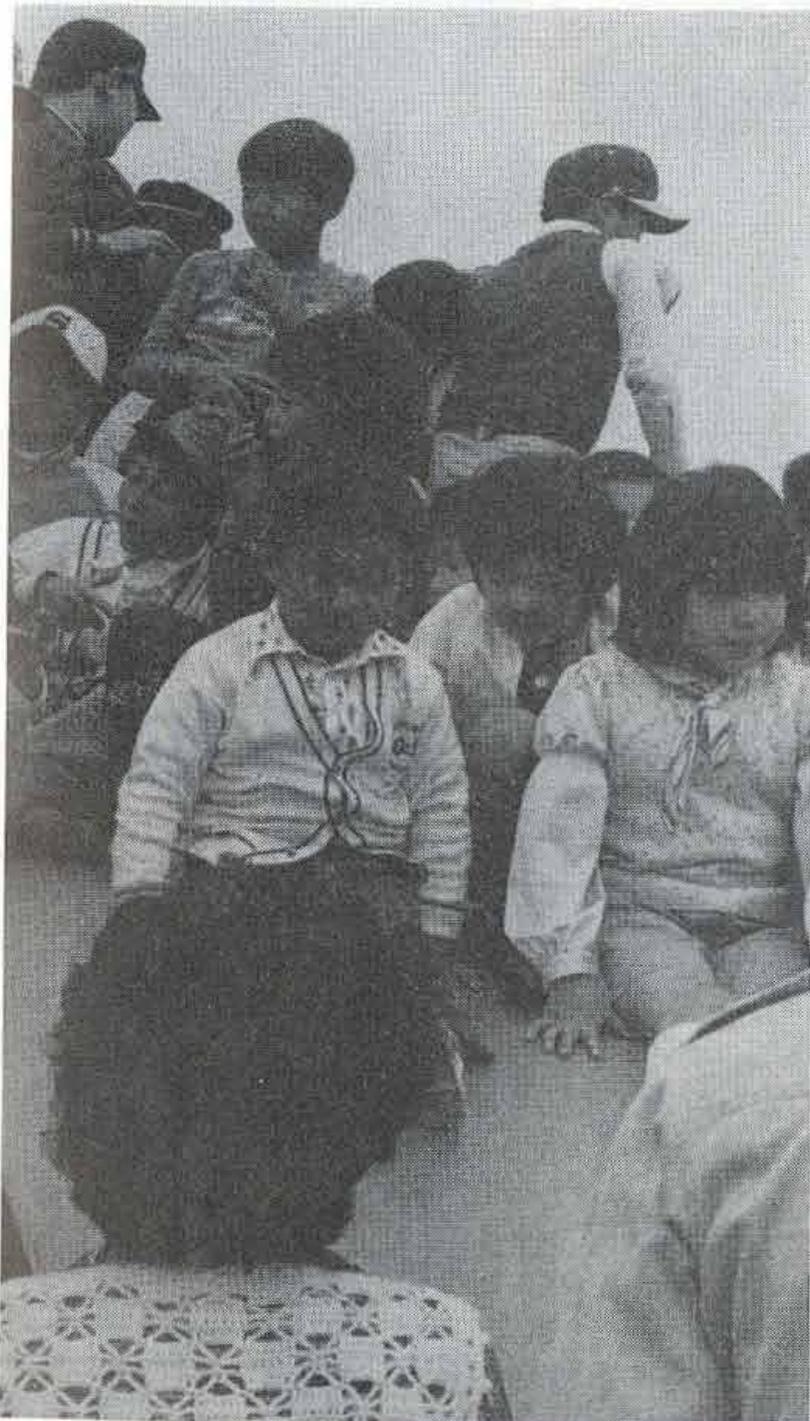
■ The Samurai baseball team finished their season this weekend verses E. J. King. In the first game of Friday's doubleheader, Shawn Eagmin pitched another great game. James Kerr provided the power and the Samurais won 4-3. In the second game, the Samurais jumped out to a 4-1 lead only to see the Cobras rally in the last inning and securing a comeback 5-4 win. On Saturday morning, the teams played a third game, ruled a scrimmage. It turned out to be a high scoring affair, ending in a 10-9 Samurai win. The Samurai baseball team ended their season with a 5-7 record in their inaugural DODEA season.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the May 14, 1976, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on the fourth annual Friendship Day drawing in approximately 70,000 spectators, station Marines attending a ceremony to honor 11 American airmen who died in a mid-air collision in 1945, the first annual arm-wrestling tournament aboard station and servicemembers having three additional months to use accrued leave in fiscal year 1977.



CROWDS STREAMING IN - When the gate opened, the first increment of the more than 70,000 Japanese visitors to come aboard the Air Station began to flow in. (Photo by Sgt. C.W. Rowe)



BEST THING SINCE BUBBLE GUM - Japanese children found the air inflated fuel bladders a source of constant joy as they bounced around on them on the parade field in front of Station headquarters. (Photo by LCpl. Dane Gregg)

Friendship in limelight

The Air Station was an open book during the Open House Friendship Day and 70,000 Japanese visitors left its pages well thumbed by the time activities ended May 5.

The fourth annual affair was a resounding success. Guests were estimated at between 70,000 and 75,000, far greater than last year's figure of 55,000. Coming by bus, car, train, bicycle, motorcycle and on foot, the visitors created a massive traffic jam with 5,000 cars, 50 buses and thousands of bikes and motorcycles. One family was so concerned with getting aboard base without delay they arrived at north gate, the only one open to visitor vehicles, at 2 a.m. The crowd build-up in front of the main gate was so heavy that visitors were allowed in a half hour early, at 9:30 a.m.

(Cont. on pages 6 and 7)

Pac CG sends commendation

The following message was sent by FMFPac CG LtGen. John N. McLaughlin.

"Maintaining and improving civilian community relations are continuing goals of the Marine Corps. The unqualified success of Friendship Day 1976, May 5, is an outstanding example.

Your ability to handle over 70,000 Japanese guests while displaying a multitude of open house events is commendable, as well as your cooperative efforts with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. It is readily apparent that many long hours, coordination and imagination were involved in your endeavor.

Please accept my congratulations for a job well done."