

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 31 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

Several Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai football players swarm a Sotoku High School Fighting Ducks football player during a scrimmage game at the M.C. Perry football field here Aug. 19, 2012. The scrimmage capped off a two-day football camp between the schools where the players learned a variety of football techniques. This is the first time in eight years M. C. Perry has fielded a full-contact football team.

Seahorses come to station, spread soccer knowledge, faith

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

The Southern California
Seahorses, a non-profit

organization and member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, took their soccer skills to Penny Lake fields here Aug. 7-9, 2012, teaching children the fundamentals of soccer during

the Biola University Women's Japan Tour with Seahorse Soccer 2012.

The students of Biola University, a private evangelical Christian university in La Mirada, Calif., travel every four

years with Seahorse Soccer, spreading their faith through soccer and voluntary fellowship meetings.

"I am a big fan of sports,"

SEE **SEAHORSE** ON PAGE 3

Role models don't win medals, they earn them

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
EDITORIAL

Every day during the 2012 London Summer Olympics, Marines took time from their busy schedules to watch athletes from around the world compete in a wide variety of sports.

The 2012 Olympics hosted 32 sports with 302 events, according to the official 2012 London

Summer Olympics website and NBC.

The Olympics amazed many Marines at how diverse countries can be and the talent shown by some of these athletes. Back home, many look at the Marines and see a wide variety of jobs in the military and how everyone comes together to accomplish amazing feats every day. It may

SEE **OLYMPICS** ON PAGE 3

Women celebrate to commemorate 19th amendment

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

In the military, one is taught to treat all fellow servicemembers equally, as if they were their brother or sister. Equality is something which should never be an issue, but for many women, it hasn't always been that way.

The station, alongside the rest of

the United States, will take time to observe a day honoring the 19th amendment, Aug. 26, 2012.

The station is slated to celebrate Women's Equality Day at the Sakura Theater with two showings of "The Help," a movie demonstrating African-American women's struggle for equality while working as nannies for white families. Admission for the showing is free.

SEE **EQUALITY** 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

'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and give his life a ransom for many' Mark 10:45

Cmdr. Dean L. Hoelz
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

There are days when I get caught up in my own little world of self-concern and worry, such days don't go well for me and that's because my focus is on me and not the needs of others. When my focus becomes so narrowed, I cannot easily see the beauty and the splendor of God's daily creation. At those times, I think about an old Chinese story I heard as a child. Thinking on it helps me to see beyond myself: it goes like this.

There was a man who asked God if he could visit heaven and hell. God grants his wish and upon entering hell, he was amazed to see people sitting around a huge banquet table. The table was set

with the finest china, silver and the radiant light of beautiful candelabras lighted the great banquet hall. The most incredible foods were piled high on the table. "What a banquet feast! Perhaps hell is not so bad after all, the man exclaimed.

Then he looked more closely at those sitting around the table. They were all starving! You see, each person had been given chopsticks which were five feet long! There was no way they could carry the food to their mouths with these long chopsticks. No one could eat a bite. No matter how hard they tried to feed themselves, they were starving in the midst of a feast. What a hell indeed, to sit so close to a banquet and yet be unable to taste even a bite.

The man was then taken to

heaven to observe life there. To his surprise, he saw people seated around a banquet table in exactly the same manner. Each person had been given five foot long chopsticks in heaven too! But here, everyone was happy eating the delicious food. No one was staring, no one lacked anything. You see, the residents of heaven were using their five foot long chopsticks to feed each other.

When I get caught up in my own selfishness and small mindedness, it is often only in service to others that I can experience the freedom from self, and enjoy the love and life God intends for me. Through service to others, God opens us up to the wonder of the kingdom before us, a kingdom of service to those in need and a glimpse of heaven around us.

God bless each of you.

SUMMER SAFETY:

Home Safety

Slips and falls:

- Keep the floor clear. Reduce clutter and keep telephone and electrical cords out of walkways.
- Wipe up grease, water, and other liquids immediately. Don't wax floors.
- To reduce the chance of slipping or tripping, secure area rugs with a piece of foam carpet-backing, double-sided tape or a rubber pad.
- Keep stairs clear of clutter. Don't use stairs as shelves.
- Make sure living areas—and especially stairways—are well lit.
- Use a sturdy step stool with handrails when trying to reach high places.

Electrical Safety:

- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Electrical Safety Foundation, annual incidents involving electrical equipment, such as extension cords, receptacles and light bulbs, result in more than 41,000 residential fires, claim about 350 lives and cause more than 1,400 injuries. These fires also cause more than \$620 million in property damage annually.

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 10

Women's Equality Day gives time, chance to remember struggles, accomplishments of women through history

EQUALITY FROM PAGE 1

The first showing is scheduled for 9 a.m., and the second showing is scheduled for 12 p.m. Participants can purchase food and drinks at the concession stand.

The 19th Amendment to the

U.S. Constitution declared the right for women to vote in all public elections, starting Aug. 26, 1920. American women waited 42 years for congress to pass the amendment granting this basic democratic right.

In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's

Equality Day to honor this victory for women.

"We've chosen the path to equality," said Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman nominated as Vice Presidential candidate representing a major American political party. "Don't let them turn us around."

In addition to the showing of "The Help," Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron will implement an all-female command deck on Aug. 27. The female Marines will fill leadership roles to include commanding officer and sergeant major until Sept. 5.

SEAHORSE FROM PAGE 1

said Brittany L. Barr, a Biola University team captain. "It is such a cool way to be able to share what we know and show that we are all the same in playing sports, it does not matter what language you speak."

Sports are a way to keep children active and why the women from Biola spend their summer traveling Japan spreading their knowledge.

"It builds relationships," said Barr. "Sports can be an outlet for the children. They learn to be on a team and to work with other people. It is a good skill to have because we all obviously work with people at some point in life."

Approximately 50 children participated in the Seahorse soccer summer camp. This was the third and final stop for the Seahorses on this year's tour. The team also traveled to Iwata and Osaka.

"Kids need to learn to serve instead of receive," said Paul Gizzi, Director of Ministries. "For us, serving these children of military families is a great way to bring honor and to say 'thank you.'"

Throughout the three-day summer camp, the children learned the basic components of soccer, such as passing, receiving and shooting.

"The first day, we did dribbling skills and we played a few games," said Barr. "The second

day, we did passing drills, and the third day, we put our emphasis on shooting. We will also have a closing ceremony and possibly have the girls scrimmage with the children."

Throughout camp the Seahorses were not the only ones having fun, the participants of the camp also said they had fun hanging out with the girls and learning.

"I really wanted to do it," said Evie Smolenski, 9, Seahorse summer camp participant. "I would do it again because the girls were nice."

The children were not only glad to play and learn about soccer, they were also happy to have the Seahorses here to teach them.

"I mostly liked the girls," said

Madielynn Peet, 7, Seahorse summer camp participant. "They are funny and the minute I saw them I was like, 'I really want to meet them.' I am really going to miss them."

Although the summer camp has ended and the Seahorses are gone, the children will remember the time they spent with them.

"I like the girls, they are really nice and they are signing our shirts," said Colson Baggs, 9, Seahorse summer camp participant. "I would do it again because it was really fun, and I really like soccer."

The Seahorses will continue to pass on their knowledge, wisdom, faith and love of the sport to the children they interact with.

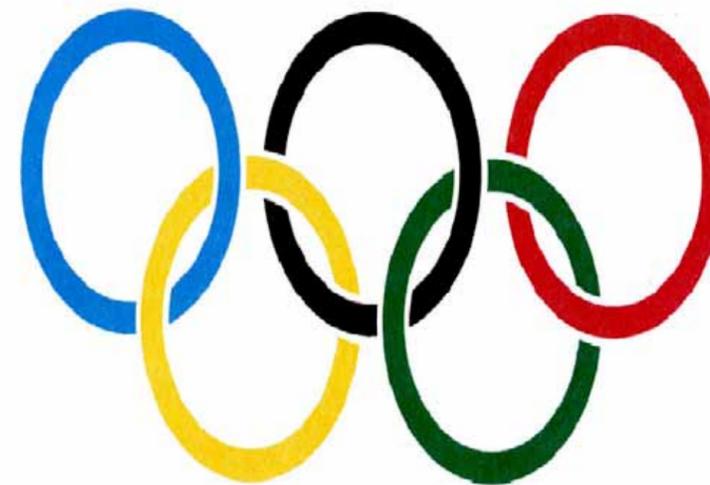


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Olympians have gold medals, Marines have Medals of Honor

OLYMPICS FROM PAGE 1

be your mom who thinks you're doing a great job, or it might be some random man you have never met, but there is always someone praising what you do and looking to you as a role model.

As Marines, we may feel we perform the same job, day in and day out, but when it comes down to it we are constantly training, refining our skills and always

staying ready because as the Olympics happen once every four years, a battle for our lives may happen at any time.

Michael Phelps swims almost every day, all day, but the Olympics gave him the opportunity to show what he strived for. All his hard work was put into the few minutes he swam in the pool. Whether he won or lost, he lived for that moment, whereas every moment that Marines train, they train for the moments which could mean

life or death.

Marines come from different backgrounds, different families and different values, but it's our diversity which makes the Marine Corps so well rounded. The Corps allows 'city boys,' 'cowboys,' and 'bible-thumpers,' who may never speak to each other outside of the Marine Corps, to be a family.

In the Olympics, it's a little different and on a whole different scale. Athletes from all over the world came together to prove

themselves through competition. But, through this competition, they also gain respect for each other because that race, jump or sport is what they trained for years to do. And, seeing another person who is from a completely different part of the world, but has the same drive and dedication to that event, proves they are part of a brotherhood which, in many ways, goes beyond blood.

Obon: Families reunite with deceased

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Obon, also known as the Feast of Lanterns, is an annual Japanese festival and Buddhist observation, which honors the spirits of one's ancestors, held Aug. 13 to 15.

The tradition of Obon is for families to visit and clean their ancestors' graves, while the spirits of the ancestors' visit household altars. After cleaning the graves, families burn incense in front of the grave and offer prayers for the deceased, then leave lanterns at the graves to

show the spirits their visitation. On the first day of Obon, families prepare feasts for the spirits to welcome them back to this world.

During the second day of Obon, families present gifts to the spirits, a sign of having a happy and healthy life, so the spirits need not worry.

On the third day, communities typically hold festivals with folk-dancing and offerings. Some people also send small boats made of bamboo and straw down rivers and out into the ocean, carrying offerings and other gifts.

The final events of the Obon festival are usually the

"Toronagashi," where thousands of drifting lanterns are released into rivers and streams so they may travel into the seas, guiding the spirits back to their resting places. A final feast is then held to symbolize the return to normal days.

Obon originated from an Indian legend about a son who, hurt by the recent death of his mother, stayed by her tomb mourning for days. One day, the mother's spirit appeared before the boy, almost skeletal in appearance from starvation. The boy tried to feed his mother, but the bowl of rice he made for her caught fire when she approached. Hurt and seeking help, the boy asked a

Buddhist priest for answers. The priest said only Buddha would be able to free the mother's soul.

Seeing how much the boy cared for his mother, Buddha gave the mother's spirit the opportunity to return to the land of the living for three days each year, only asking in return that the reunion always be happy.

The legend and tradition of Obon spread with the Buddhist religion from India to China, then to Japan and many other regions of the Far East.

Editor's note: References used for this article include The Torii Teller.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Flowers decorate a Japanese grave during Obon in Iwakuni Aug. 15, 2012. The final event of the Obon festival is usually the "Toronagashi," where thousands of drifting lanterns are released into rivers and streams so they may travel into the seas, guiding the spirits back to their resting places and then a final feast to symbolize the return to normal days.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Flowers and a coffee can decorate a Japanese grave during Obon in Iwakuni Aug. 15, 2012. Obon, also called the Feast of Lanterns, is a Japanese Buddhist holiday honoring the spirits of one's ancestors, which normally takes place annually from Aug. 13 to 15.

Honor, tradition: BHC sailors wish fair winds and following seas to captain, commander

CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Outgoing Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic officer-in-charge Cmdr. Cesar Odvina relinquished command to Navy Capt. Moise Willis during a change of charge ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Aug. 10, 2012.

A change of charge ceremony is the official transfer of authority to the new officer-in-charge. Odvina served three years aboard station as the BHC officer-in-charge and enjoyed working with his sailors and supporting the station residents.

"I am humbled to serve the community of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni," said Odvina. "The sailors at the BHC are like a family to me. We may be far from our relatives, but they made me feel at home. I could not ensure the BHC's mission was accomplished without my sailors."

The BHC family arrived in force to show their support for both Odvina and Willis in their future endeavors, whether aboard the station or beyond.

Odvina is setting sail for

National Capitol Region, Podesta, Md.

"I have great respect for (Willis), and I know that he will be a great asset and leader to the community and the BHC in support of our mission and taking care of our patients here," said Odvina. "Leading the clinic and the sailors there was a tremendously fun time. I will remember that family for the rest of my life and all the great times I shared with the Marines and sailors here. I know Willis will enjoy his time here as much as I have and I wish him and his family the best of luck here."

Willis' mission is a vital role to the station.

"This is an honor and a longtime dream," said Willis. "I'm prior enlisted, and I had a lot of great mentors along the way. It's hard to put into words about how I feel today. The bottom line is taking care of others, I took that oath as a corpsman. I look forward to taking care of all of our servicemembers and family members at the clinic."



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic sailors salute Cmdr. Cesar Odvina, outgoing Branch Health Clinic officer-in-charge, as the command personnel step off stage during the BHC change of charge ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Aug. 10, 2012. Odvina served three years aboard station as the BHC officer-in-charge and enjoyed working with his sailors and supporting the station residents.



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Cmdr. Cesar Odvina, outgoing Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic officer-in-charge, salutes Navy Capt. Moise Willis during the Branch Health Clinic change of charge ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Aug. 10, 2012. "I am humbled to serve the community of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni," said Odvina.



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Station residents stand as the national anthem is played during the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic change of charge ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Aug. 10, 2012. Cmdr. Cesar Odvina, Branch Health Clinic officer-in-charge relinquished command to Navy Capt. Moise Willis.



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic sailors and others attending the event listen as Navy Capt. Moise Willis, oncoming Branch Health Clinic officer-in-charge, speaks during the BHC change of charge ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Aug. 10, 2012. "This is an honor and a longtime dream," said Willis.



LANCE CPL. TODD, F. MICHALEK

The Sotokoku Fighting Ducks defensive line waits for the center to hike the ball to Shawn Eagmin, Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai quarterback and defensive back, during a scrimmage game at the M. C. Perry football field here Aug. 19, 2012. "I think it is good that we can play Japanese teams and not just against the other bases," said Connor Hadlock, 17, Samurai center and defensive end. "It shows that while we are in Japan we are not stuck in our American ways, and we can still go out and enjoy Japanese culture and everything like that. Just seeing them out here and the way they are doing things, it is completely different."



LANCE CPL. TODD, F. MICHALEK

Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai and Sotoku High School Fighting Ducks players congratulate each other on a good game at the conclusion of a scrimmage game at the M. C. Perry football field here Aug. 19, 2012. With only six days of practice under their belts, the Samurai scrimmaged against the Sotoku High School Fighting Ducks football team from Hiroshima, Japan, after both teams completing a two-day summer camp



LANCE CPL. TODD, F. MICHALEK

Johnny Baseel, a Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai running back and defensive back, chases down the Sotoku High School Fighting Ducks quarterback during a scrimmage game at M. C. Perry football field here Aug. 19, 2012. "I think it was fun," said Junya Yamamoto, Fighting Ducks wide receiver. "We usually don't get to play against Americans."

Football returns! Samurai share M.C. Perry field, Japanese team comes aboard station

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

For the first time since 2004, the Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai football team suited up in pads, jerseys and helmets. American football, a long-missed sport aboard the station has finally made its return.

With only six days of practice under their belts, the Samurai scrimmaged against the Sotoku High School Fighting Ducks football team from Hiroshima, Japan, after completing a two-day summer camp at the M.C. Perry High School football field here Aug. 19, 2012.

"I thought we were quite competitive, considering they have been practicing for a year and some of those kids have been

together for three years," said Frank Macias, Samurai head coach. "They play semi-pro and college teams as well. We are a brand new program. For most of these kids, this is the first time they have ever hit somebody."

Although the Samurai did not win the scrimmage against the Fighting Ducks, their coaches and the players themselves were not disappointed.

"I will tell you what I told them," said Macias. "I am very proud of their effort, I mean effort is not something you can coach, you either are going to give your 100 percent or you're not. They did. I am very proud of them for that."

Football, for many people, is a sport which causes both mental and physical challenges to its players.

"I'm stoked," said Connor Hadlock, 17, Samurai center and defensive end. "I like playing football. I started in eighth grade and only got to play in ninth grade, then I moved here and we didn't have it. There are only a few sports that I actually enjoy playing, the most active ones, and not having football, it killed my sophomore and junior years. So, I am definitely excited that my senior year we get to play football."

While there are many plays and techniques taught during the practices, giving max effort and having heart during every play are two things which cannot be taught.

"Out of everyone, we are small, but the group of guys we have, we have the heart for it," said Hadlock. "We are going to push

it and we are going to show them that Perry is not forgotten."

The season begins Sept. 1, 2012.

"I think it was fun," said Junya Yamamoto, Fighting Ducks wide receiver. "We usually don't get to play against Americans."

The Japanese are not the only ones who feel this way. The Samurai cannot wait to officially start the season and show what they have been working on.

"I think it is good that we can play Japanese teams and not just against the other bases," said Hadlock. "It shows that while we are in Japan we are not stuck in our American ways, and we can still go out and enjoy Japanese culture and everything like that. Just seeing them out here and the way they are doing things, it is completely different."



LANCE CPL. TODD, F. MICHALEK

Charlie Van Allen, a Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai running back and linebacker, tackles a Sotoku High School Fighting Ducks running back during a scrimmage game at the M. C. Perry football field here Aug. 19, 2012. "I thought we were quite competitive, considering they have been practicing for a year and some of those kids have been together for three years," said Frank Macias, Samurai head coach. "They play semi-pro and college teams as well. We are a brand new program. For most of these kids, this is the first time they have ever hit somebody."

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Helicopter Company raids urban combat facility

CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT
HEADQUARTERS MARINE
CORPS

COMBAT TOWN, Japan — "Enemy in sight." These words were passed down to the platoon commander, crouching in the tree line alongside dozens of Marines. Only one word came in response: "Engage."

This was the prelude to Company G's assault on a notional town held by enemy forces. The Marines of Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, infiltrated the urban combat training facility here, Aug. 9, 2012.

Inserting via CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), rifle squads disembarked at their landing

zone 700 meters from the town, securing the area before moving to execute their mission.

"As the assault element, we're the first ones in to clear any immediate enemy presence for the rest of our forces," said Sgt. Victor Rodriguez, squad leader with 1st platoon, Co. G., BLT 2/1, 31st MEU and native of Oceanside, Calif. "Our objective is to return control of the town to the local police force."

Sweeping in from various points of the village's perimeter, the Marines secured the outermost buildings and neutralized enemy personnel in a matter of minutes. The raid required more precision than firepower, with the threat of improvised explosive devices as well as the task to kill or capture a high-value individual suspected in the area.

"The HVI could be able to tell us

where any IEDs are, which would obviously be in our best interests to know early on," said Lance Cpl. Mitchell Emery, squad automatic weapon gunner with 2nd Plt., Co. G., BLT 2/1, 31st MEU and native of Midlothian, Texas.

After gaining control of a few more buildings, the HVI was taken alive, and provided valuable intelligence on IED locations and enemy troop disposition. The Marines used this information to quickly overcome the remaining enemy forces and secure the entire facility.

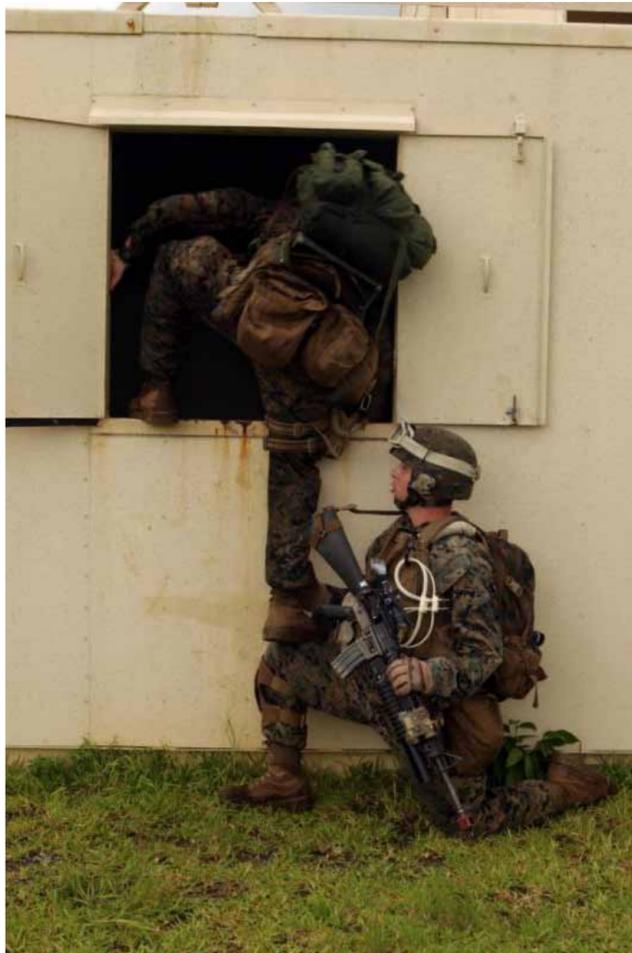
Less than three hours after landing outside of the village, the Marines returned control of the notional town to the local police force. All enemy personnel had been killed or captured, and the Marines, suffering zero casualties, egressed to the landing zone to wait for the incoming helicopters.

From the first step off the helicopter during insertion to the signal of "last man" boarding the helicopter to leave, the Marines of Company G. completed every step as if the scenario were real.

"We don't rehearse these raids just to showcase them to other military forces on deployment," said Lance Cpl. Richard Good, a rifleman with 2nd platoon, Co. G., BLT 2/1, 31st MEU, and a native of Houston, Texas. "All this is in preparation for any real-world use for us. We train to fight, not notionally."

The helicopter raid was part of the 31st MEU's pre-deployment training package involving all components of the 31st MEU.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps' force-in-readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT



CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT

COMBAT TOWN, Japan — Marines with 1st platoon, Company G., Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, climb through the window of an enemy-held building here Aug. 9, 2012. Inserting via CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), the Marines raided a notional town, neutralizing all enemy personnel and capturing a high-value individual. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps' Force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

COMBAT TOWN, Japan — A Marine with Company G., Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, maintains security on a stairwell inside an enemy structure here Aug. 9, 2012. Inserting via CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), the Marines raided a notional town, neutralizing all enemy personnel and capturing a high-value individual. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps' Force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Headphone Usage

Wearing headphones is restricted to the seawall and the IronWorks Gym.

Speed Limit Change

The speed limit on Newell Dr., located in front of the Sakura Theater, is now 30 km/h.

Thrift Store Funds

The Thrift Store gives funds generated from donations they receive back to the community. If your organization is hosting a community event, or wondering how they will fund their next community-relations project, your Thrift Store may be able to help. For more details, contact Sharon Rostkowski at 253-4711.

Seawall Closures

Sectioned portions of the seawall have closed for construction scheduled through April 2013. The affected area of the seawall includes any portion of the seawall after the "NO THROUGH PATH" sign. Take extra care, construction vehicles will pass through. The affected areas will shut down completely when heavy equipment is transferred. For more information on the closures, call Walter Chan at 253-5004.

Catholic Mass Changes

No Catholic Masses will be held aboard station Sept. 9th or 16th. However, a van will be provided for those who do not have a vehicle to go to the Christ The King Catholic Church in Iwakuni. The van leaves the

station chapel parking lot at 8:30 a.m. The Saturday Catholic Masses for Sept. 8th and 15th will still take place inside the chapel. Daily Masses for Sept. 3rd to 6th and from Sept. 17th to 20th are cancelled. For more information and directions to Christ The King Church, contact the Chaplain's office at 253-3371.

Gospel Choir

Gospel choir practice will be held every Thursday night in preparation for the 2012 Annual Christmas Concert. For more information, call Billie Scott at 080-3272-5902 or e-mail billiej316@gmail.com.

Off-limit Establishments

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

2012 Summer Reading Program

MCAS Iwakuni Library would like to announce a shared summer reading program open to all military families. Families can join anytime until the program's close Aug. 14. This year's theme is "Reading Is So Delicious." For more information

PMO Lost and Found

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

Cpl. Christopher Korsikas at 253-4929 or 253-3306.

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.

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, 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.

Abuse it, Lose it

Shopping carts are no longer allowed to leave the Commissary parking lot.

KUNI TOONS: THRASHING



SUBMITTED BY PATRICK ROY

INFOTAINMENT

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Kanji Adventures Bus Transportation



Japan is known worldwide for its outstanding transportation system. There are multiple modes of transportation available throughout Japan, including airplanes, ferries, busses, local trains and the Shinkansen. This week's transportation information will focus on bus travel throughout Japan. For many short-term travelers visiting Japan, the bus is an excellent way to get around. There are two types of buses in Japan; highway buses, commonly used more often for long-distance trips, and local buses. Highway buses are usually cheaper than trains. Reserving a ticket will be even cheaper than buying a ticket the day of your trip. Ensure you are in the right bus before departing. Ask for assistance if needed. Japan uses many bus companies and each company has different ways to pay for a trip. Some bus companies prefer paying as you board, while other companies have passengers pay at their stop.

SAKURA THEATER

<p>Friday, August 24, 2012 7 p.m. Total Recall (PG-13) 10 p.m. Ted (R)</p> <p>Saturday, August 25, 2012 4 p.m. Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 7 p.m. Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (PG-13)</p> <p>Sunday, August 26, 2012 4 p.m. Brave (PG) 7 p.m. The Campaign (R)</p>	<p>Monday, August 27, 2012 7 p.m. Ted (R)</p> <p>Tuesday, August 28, 2012 Theatre closed</p> <p>Wednesday, August 29, 2012 Theatre closed</p> <p>Thursday, August 30, 2012 7 p.m. Total Recall (PG-13)</p>
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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.

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 9:30 a.m. Lutheran Service
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
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 Saturday 7:30 a.m. Men's Discipleship

Bahai

Sunday 11 a.m. Bahai Meeting

For information regarding command religious programs or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

** Information for upcoming Mass times is located in the community briefs section.*

SAFETY FROM PAGE 2

Extension Cord Safety

- Never run an extension cord under a rug, as it can cause a fire in certain cases.
- Do not consider extension cords part of your home's electrical system. Use them only for temporary situations.
- Replace old and damaged extension cords. A frayed or cracked cord could cause a shock or fire.
- Make sure the cords you buy are approved by an independent testing laboratory. Never overload an extension cord; that could cause a fire. Check the rating labels on the cords and the appliance. If necessary, upgrade to a higher-rated cord.

MORE INFORMATION ON HOME SAFETY TO FOLLOW NEXT WEEK.

Powerlifters “pump up the volume” while pushing limits during competition

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sounds of metal clanked, grunts echoed and cheers rang throughout the IronWorks Gym sports courts here as station and Iwakuni residents tested their might during the Far East Powerlifting Championship Competition Aug. 12, 2012.

The Far East Powerlifting Championship Competition provides station residents and local Japanese a chance to come together and show the strength both on and off base competitors have in common, said John Baltazar, Marine Corps Community Services assistant athletic director.

Sixteen athletes participated in three events during the competition. Each competitor had three chances to accomplish and improve on the events, which included squat, bench press and deadlift.

The competition was made up of several weight classes and a male and female division. The female division consisted of three weight classes and the males division had five weight classes with one competitor

in the super heavyweight division.

Even though each weight class had its own first place winner, the overall competition could only have one male and one female winner.

Anita Clayton, Far East Powerlifting Competition overall female winner, lifted a total weight of 573 pounds. Abe Roman, Far East Powerlifting Competition overall male winner, lifted a total weight of 1,361 pounds.

“I like to challenge myself, to have this opportunity to be out here, stay young, be fit and challenge myself,” said Roman.

The competitors first tested their limits during the squatting event. The females squatted a range of 88 and 127 pounds. The males squatted a range of 287 to 529 pounds.

After a short break, the ladies bench-pressed between 88 and 127 pound, while the men pressed between 198 and 430 pounds.

Then participants competed in their final event, the deadlift.

Throughout the deadlift event, females lifted a span of 149 to 254 pounds. Once all females had taken their turns, the males deadlifted between 193 and 535 pounds.

For all the competitors, extensive training

allowed them to reach their maximum potential during the competition.

“We have a group and we all help each other,” said Roman. “Having the most experience maybe in the group, I pass on technical expertise to make sure people's technique is the way it needs to be so that they can progress and hopefully keep from getting hurt.”

Powerlifters need to make sure they maintain proper form and a healthy lifestyle, Roman added.

While Roman has been lifting for approximately 30 years, others who competed may not have had as much time to train.

“I have been preparing for this competition for about seven weeks,” said Clayton. “Participating in this competition was awesome, I made my goal and it's such an adrenaline rush.”

These competitions, held at least twice a year, help keep the enthusiasm of the powerlifters high. The next Far East Powerlifting Championship Competition is slated for autumn of 2013.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Nancy Rodriguez, the 148-pound female division second place winner, squats 176 pounds during the Far East Powerlifting Championship Competition at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Aug. 12, 2012. Rodriguez lifted a total combined weight of 491 pounds in the squat, bench press and deadlift events.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Abe Roman, 165-pound male division first place winner and overall male Far East Powerlifting champion, deadlifts 474 pounds during the deadlifting event of the Far East Powerlifting Championship Competition at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Aug. 12, 2012. Roman lifted a total weight of 1,361 pounds in the squat, bench press and deadlift events.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Aug. 21, 1961, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on the Bon-Odori, or spirit dances, the lifting of the "Buy American" ban with ALNAV 32, and VMR-253 hunting for their missing mascot, a six-foot tall Tanuki statue.

VMR-253 Hunts Relentlessly For Missing Mascot

One of the most intensive "man-hunts" to ever take place at the Facility is presently being undertaken by VMR-253.

Originating from the office of the squadron's SgtMaj, W. L. Gordon, the call went out to all service personnel in an all-out effort to locate the missing "person" who later turned out to be a Tanuki.

Now right about this time everyone is probably wondering, what is a Tanuki? A Tanuki is an animal inhabiting the region extending from Eastern Siberia through Korea and Japan to North China. It is generally called in English a racoon dog or badger, but is different from either of them.

In general form it resembles a fox though much smaller. It is dark gray with a section of its belly white, and has a stubby tail covered with heavy fur. Its legs are very small and it can't run well or far.

It seems that this particular Tanuki, VMR-253's mascot, is a statue mounted on a platform with rollers, brown in color, smokes cigars and is six feet tall. It also has electric eyes which light up red, wears a brown hat and carries a sake bottle with a credit card attached.

The Tanuki has put in eight years service with the Transport Squadron since he was bought for his job as mascot out of the Squadron members donations. He was last seen while attending a Squadron party recently and is believed to be a victim of foul play.



ON TO KOREA-Facility personnel from VMR-253, help load crates of clothing bound for the Marine Advisory Group, Pohang, Korea, who will turn it over to the Harry Holt Orphanage in Seoul. The clothing was collected by personnel of the 1stMarDiv, Camp Pendleton and the 3rdMAW, El Toro.

Facility's Tired Tubes Aid Local Swimmers

Who says that Marines can't accomplish any task or problem they're faced with? Take for instance the unusual request received earlier this month from a local primary school for 20 inner tubes. Iwakuni's Kawashimo primary school wanted the tubes for bouys, to help designate safe swimming areas for it's pupils in the Imazu River which flows through Iwakuni.

After receiving the request from Mr. Hiroshi Doi, Principal of the school, Col J. K. Dill, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Facility, asked his S-4 section to locate the tubes for the school.

Only two phone calls by 1stLt D. L. McEvoy, Assistant S-4 Officer, to Naval Salvage and the Motor Transport Section of MWSG-17, were required before the used inner tubes began rolling into the Facility's Administrative building.

Mission Accomplished

Soon 15 old tubes, which had been declared unusable for aircraft, were collected and turned over to the school by LtCol W. Farrell, Facility S-4 Officer, during informal ceremonies here August 11.

According to Col R. C. Armstead, Deputy CO, MCAF, this was only the first shipment, with the next increment of five tubes scheduled to be sent in the near future.

Once again Facility Marines have risen to the occasion to do their part in helping to bolster Americas' "People-to-People-Program."



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

7:30 p. m. Business Meeting
Second and Fourth
Monday each Month
Iwakuni Fleet Reserve Club

Social Security Plans Revamped By Legislation

As a result of recently passed legislation (Public Law 87-64) many retired military men will soon be eligible for Social Security benefits at the age of 62 instead of 65.

Also benefitting by the new law will be service widows already receiving Social Security checks, and all retired members of the Armed Forces presently receiving minimum installments.

At 65, retired male members of the Armed Forces who are eligible for maximum Social Security benefits currently receive \$116 per month. They can receive \$92.80 per month under the new law if they choose to start their benefits at age 62.

Up to the age of 76, there is little difference between the two programs; the man receiving benefits starting at 62 accumulates \$15,556.80 in total payments; the same man, if he chooses to wait until he reaches 65, receives \$15,312 in total payments.

After the age of 76, the latter program begins to pull ahead in the total amount paid, due to the higher monthly payments paid.

Widows and sole surviving dependent parents presently receiving 75% of their benefactor's payments will receive 82.5 per cent. The previous \$33 per month minimum drawn by some retired personnel or widows will receive \$40 under the law.

Bandsmen Host Music Students

More than 200 Japanese Music students from Hiroshima Prefecture are scheduled to visit the Facility next Thursday as guests of the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Hosting the group during their stay aboard MCAF, Iwakuni will be the 1st MAF band.

The children, all members of various school bands, will tour the Facility and the 1st MAF area. Highlighting their tour will be a band clinic sponsored by the Facility's musical aggregation.

According to Assistant Bandmaster, Hugh T. Bown, the clinic is designed primarily to teach the visiting Japanese musicians the Marine Corps style of band operation.

Arrangements for the visit originated through the efforts of Mr. Hoyt, director of the American Cultural Center, Hiroshima. Present plans call for the one-day clinic to be conducted at the Facility theatre under the direction of CWO George Durham, 1stMAW Bandmaster.



FIRE SAFETY DEMONSTRATION-- An MCAF Iwakuni Fire Department official demonstrates to Japanese employees of the Facility Special Services office, the use of a foam fire extinguisher. Periodically, the facility fire department holds lectures and demonstrations to familiarize base personnel with the use of all types of fire extinguishers in an effort to boost fire prevention knowledge.