

CO brings printed paper back!

Station residents, employees encouraged to name their newspaper

Publication names may be submitted to PAO by phone, fax, e-mail

Welcome Readers, to the return of the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni newspaper! The last issue of the printed base paper, the Torii Teller, was published almost two and a half years ago, when the decision was made to go to an online newspaper. The electronic paper was a good idea and a noble experiment, and it saved MCAS Iwakuni thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, I don't think the experiment worked. As it turns out, not many people have been

reading the online newspaper, and a valuable communications tool has for the most part been lost.

On an overseas base as small as MCAS Iwakuni, communication opportunities are limited. I believe that a base newspaper is a superb way of getting the word out and is worth the investment of bringing it back.

I'm sure you noticed the generic title of the paper. We need a name. Torii Teller was a legacy name from the days when this Air Station was NAS Iwakuni -- that name doesn't resonate very well anymore and is frankly confusing to Japanese readers who consider the torii something sacred. I put it on your shoulders to find a name for

this paper. Name suggestions may be submitted to the Public Affairs Office by phone (253-5551), fax (253-5554), e-mail (IWKN_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil), or in person at PAO, located in Building 1, Room 216. The person who names the newspaper will receive a fabulous prize -- or maybe just a handshake from me along with your picture in the paper.

In either case, this is our newspaper. We will cover everything from deployments to M.C. Perry schools, and whatever else matters to us. I've only been here five months, but I already know that this community is vocal!

Tell us what you want out of this paper! Better yet, write an article!



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran
STATION COMMANDING OFFICER

Every Marine a club member

MCCS discards club membership dues



The New Year marked the end of club membership dues for all active duty, reservists, retired Marines and civilian Marines in clubs across the Marine Corps, according to the Marine Corps Community Services Web site. Members can still use their club cards for discounts on food prices and club events through January.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

As of Jan. 1, club membership dues for clubs across the Marine Corps were eliminated.

All active duty, reservists, retired Marines and civilian Marines are now club members of their respective clubs without having to pay dues for membership, according to

the Marine Corps Community Services Web site.

The change was brought about after the commandant recently stated every Marine should be a club member as it is a privilege earned by achieving the title "Marine."

According to Larry Mask, Club Iwakuni manager and Chicago native, there will no longer be a need for club membership cards at rank-appropriate Marine Corps clubs and lounges.

Members can rest assured that they will still receive the same quality of service they have received in the past.

However, Club Iwakuni will no longer offer discounts on menu prices after January 31, said Mask. The additional month of club membership card honoring is unique to

SEE CLUB ON PAGE 5

Lancer squadron earns annual safety award

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 received the 2006 Chief of Naval Operations Naval Aviation Safety Award for outstanding safety achievement during aircraft operations in the United States Naval Air Systems Command from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Schmiddle, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, presented the award plaque and citation during a squadron formation Dec. 28 at the VMFA-212 hangar here.

The award recognizes superior leadership, a proactive all hands commitment to the principles of operational risk management (ORM) and superlative airmanship, according to the citation. The Lancers consistently demonstrated

professionalism, superb skill and the highest level of operational readiness.

Maj. Jason D. Pejsa, VMFA-212 director of safety and standardization and Orlando native, said the award can be attributed to mishap-free deployments to Korea and Australia, as well as high scores on two major safety inspections throughout the year.

"This award is a validation that we are in fact doing all the right things for the right reasons," Pejsa said.

"Unfortunately, prior to 2005, the squadron suffered consecutive years of mishaps," he added. "In order to change that, it took a valid effort - from the Pfc. to the commanding officer - to practice safe procedures across the board."

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Untouchables outlast S.M.M.O



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The Iwakuni Paper 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 can be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to IWKN_SMBI-wakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil.

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Who let the dogs out?

Gunny: Man's best friend, neighbor's worst enemy



Gunnery Sgt. Sal Cardella
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dogs are protesting all over the air station. They want to be heard if you like it or not. They're not concerned with the time or place. They don't care who you are.

What are they demanding? You feed them. You pet them. You care for them. Why are they being so vocal? What could they possibly want?

Whatever it is, you may want to pay attention and do whatever it takes to keep Fido's protest down to a minimum or you may be packing a doggie bag when your four-legged family member receives permanent change of duty station orders off the installation.

"But dogs are supposed to bark. That's what they do," you say. "It's

natural. Besides it's the middle of the day. So what's the big deal?"

Better open the air station housing order (Marine Corps Air Station Order 11101.3N) before convincing yourself Old Yeller has the right to, well, yell when he feels like it.

The order clearly outlines your responsibility for any pet kept at your on-station residence.

Any animal disturbing the peace can be considered a nuisance, even in the middle of the day. So what does that mean?

It means that Spot's calls to his buddy Sparky two streets down can get you your very own warning by the Provost Marshal's Office, and three of those results in your doggie friend being evicted from the sir station.

The warnings are free yet can cost you your family pet if you don't pay attention.

"What? Having a pet is my right," you claim. "Doesn't my pet have rights, too?"

The only right they may have in this case is the right to remain silent.

According to the order, "Pet ownership is a conditional privilege extended to those personnel assigned to pet eligible quarters. Responsible behavior must be exhibited in the control of pets or the privilege may be revoked. This regulation pertains to any pet kept at a residence, whether owned by the resident or not."

It doesn't matter why Poochie is attempting to sing the latest Gnarl's Barkley hit for the neighbors. It's your responsibility to keep any impromptu

concerts from getting out of hand.

You may think, "How is this a problem? The barking doesn't bother me."

Dogs bark. We know this. It's the excessive barking any time of the day that is considered a nuisance, and it may not only be inconsiderate to your neighbors but is, more importantly, against station orders.

"Barking becomes an issue when residents leave their dogs outside unattended," said Bruce L. Gorst, the air station's family housing director. "The dog can be barking his head off, but the owner doesn't seem to hear it. I call this environmental deafness."

"Dogs need a lot of attention or they get stressed", said Gorst. "You have to check on them periodically and make sure they're behaving and do give them some attention then need and deserve. It is to be remembered that dog owners are in the minority in family housing and non-pet owners have every right to complain about noisy and/or nuisance dogs."

You may not be able to keep your dog from barking, but with some close supervision you may be able to keep it at an acceptable level.

Every resident who owns a pet is ultimately responsible for the pet's behavior. Do the right thing and follow the rules and be a good neighbor.

Editor's Note: Gunnery Sgt. Sal Cardella is the detachment chief of the station American Forces Network Detachment. He can be reached at 253-5561 or via e-mail at salvatore.cardella@usmc.mil.



Station resources take guesswork out of taxes, voting

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

The holiday decorations have come down and station residents are once again gearing up for a new year. Although the looming task of filling out forms and itemizing deductions may start 2008 on a sour note for some, the Legal Assistance Office and unit voting assistance officers are prepared to make these annual chores as painless as possible.

Tax preparation specialists located at the Station Judge Advocate Office are here to help active duty and retired service members, Department of Defense civilians and Status of Forces Agreement personnel get a jump start on the season by preparing and electronically filing state and federal taxes.

According to Erlinda Knight, Legal Assistance tax specialist and native of Clarksville, Tenn., the free service is a good way to take the guesswork out of tax preparation and ensure a speedy return - usually within 10 working days.

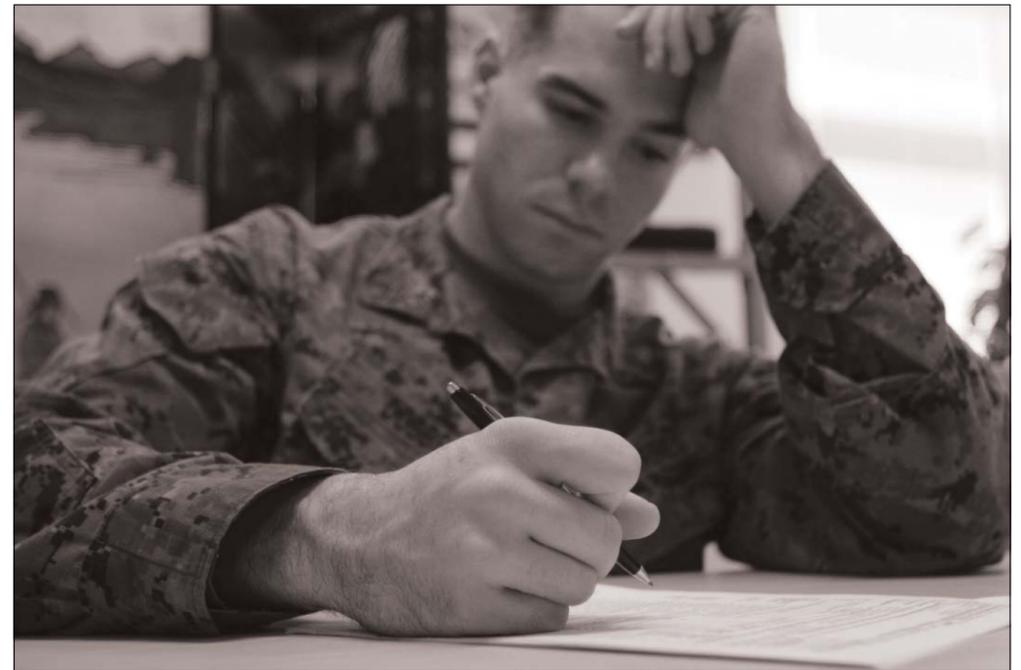
"The sooner (customers) get in here, the sooner they'll get their refund," Knight said. "The more they wait, the more they allow the (Internal Revenue Service) to keep their money. Why not get the money (now) to earn interest?"

According to Knight, customers need their W-2 form, identification, social security card and a recent bank statement to take advantage of the service. Taxpayers should also bring the ID and social security information of any dependents being claimed.

College students or personnel with miscellaneous incomes or deductions may require extra forms, so check with a tax preparation specialist before coming in, she added.

Taxes aren't the only paperwork worth getting a head start on. January is also an ideal time to register for an absentee ballot, said Maj. Ronald E. Gaines, installation voting assistance officer and native of St. Louis.

According to the Uniformed and



Active duty and retired service members, Department of Defense civilians and Status of Forces Agreement personnel can forego last-minute stress and get a jump start on tax season by visiting the Legal Assistance Office tax center located at the Station Judge Advocate office. Photo Illustration by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, service members, their families and U.S. citizens 18 years or older re-

the general election in November, and obviously you want to have everything set up beforehand so you're not rushing at the last minute." Voters can obtain absentee ballots by mailing a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) available online at the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site or through their unit voting assistance officer.

"The sooner (customers) get in here, the sooner they'll get their refund. The more they wait, the more they allow the (Internal Revenue Service) to keep their money. Why not get the money (now) to earn interest?"

**Erlinda Knight
Legal Assistance Office tax**

started for the 2008 election year," Gaines said. "We're getting close to

assistance officer. Gaines said he feels voting is not only a chance for service members to participate in the process ultimately affecting military policies but an opportunity to support a fundamental American ideal.

"One of the things we fight to protect is the right to (vote), so it would be kind of silly not to actually take part in it," said Gaines.

For more information on tax preparation, stop by the Legal Assistance Office tax center or call 253-3540 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. For questions concerning absentee ballots and other voting matters, contact Gaines at 253-3033, your unit voting assistance officer or visit <http://www.fvap.gov/>.

SAFETY FROM PAGE 1

In 2007, the Lancers also received similar safety awards including the Admiral Flatley Memorial Award, the Naval Aviation Readiness Through Safety Award (ARTSA), the Admiral James S. Russell Naval Aviation Flight Safety Award and the Gram-

paw Pettibone Award. These safety-related awards distinguish a squadron with an aggressive aviation safety program and outstanding scores for ORM inspections.

"Our day-to-day commitment to safety enabled us to receive these awards," Pejsa said. "The dedication shown among all pay grades in

(VMFA-212) shows the commitment to significant and lasting change," said Schindle. "The Lancers have shown that they are the rightful recipients of this prestigious award. Most importantly, I'd like to recognize that this award is not just for the command level, but for the corporals and junior-enlisted Marines that put forth the effort every day."

News Briefs

Martine Luther King's Birthday Meal

The North Side and R. G. Robinson mess halls will provide a special lunch meal in honor of Martin Luther King's Birthday Jan. 18.

Everyone aboard the station is welcome to feast on southern favorites such as Louisiana gumbo soup, fried chicken, barbeque spareribs and fried catfish. Commuted rations, civilian employees and family members pay \$3.85. Family members of E-4 and below pay a discount rate of \$3.30.

Telephone Office Service Hours

In order to better meet customer demand, the Station Telephone Office has changed its customer service window hours to the following:

Installations and service 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Class B billing collections 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Final bills still require 24 hours to process and will be available the next working day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Station Telephone Office is open Mondays to Fridays. Call 253-5555 for more information.

Flea Market

Marine Corps Community Services will be holding a U.S.-Japanese Flea Market/Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 19.

All Status of Forces Agreement personnel, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel and their guests are welcome. Sign-ups will go till Jan. 15. Space and tables are limited. There will be a \$5 fee at the time of sign-up. For more information, call 253-6621.



Master Sgt. Kevin L. McNeese, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 avionics chief and native of Trion, Ga., is pinned to his new rank by Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Harrison, MALS-12 advanced automatic test equipment technician and Norwich, N.Y., native, during his promotion ceremony at the MALS-12 Aviation Maintenance building Jan. 2. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Present pins past in promotion ceremony

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

While in boot camp, it's hard to picture a Marine Corps drill instructor as anything but a sadist hell-bent on making every waking moment as stressful and exhausting as possible. During his Crucible, the final grueling three-day test of a recruit's mental and physical stamina, Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Harrison recalls when "the scariest drill instructor I ever met" made the transition from foe to friend.

"He actually took the Smoky (wide-brimmed drill instructor) hat off and put on his Marine Corps cover," said Harrison, a native of Norwich, N.Y. "He talked to us like Marines. It was such a shock because for so many weeks he's been up in your face screaming at you; now, all of a sudden he's talking to you like a person. ... He actually did respect us."

Harrison never thought one day he would again cross paths with - let alone take part in helping promote - the intimidating figure who more than 10 years ago began to shape him into the Marine he is today. Fate, however, had plans for the two leathernecks.

Several months ago, Gunnery Sgt. Kevin L. McNeese was eating lunch at the Northside Messhall when he was approached by Harrison, who immediately recognized him as his drill instructor. The two caught up and discovered they both worked in avionics for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12.

"When I was a drill instructor, we'd graduate (a platoon) and 25 percent don't make it to their EAS (End of Active Service)," said McNeese, who is now the MALS-12 avionics chief. "I did eight platoons, and the math says two of my platoons didn't make it to their EAS."

"To cross paths 10 years later with him and see that he's successful and has reenlisted is motivating," he added.

It was this motivation that inspired McNeese to ask his former recruit to take part in an important career landmark, pinning him on as master sergeant during a Jan. 2 promotion ceremony at the MALS-12 Aviation Maintenance building.

"I was thinking, 'Wow, that's a pretty big honor,'" said Harrison, an advanced automatic test equipment technician. "After all these years,

being able to do that is just going from one extreme to another. I think it shows how close the Marine Corps is, how small it is. You're never more than one duty station away from people you know."

During the ceremony, McNeese gave a speech thanking Harrison and all the Marines who helped get him to where he is today.

"Staff Sgt. Harrison got to pin one of my chevrons on me, and I'm giving these (chevrons) to him," McNeese said to the crowded room. "He'll make an outstanding gunnery sergeant of Marines. ... He was one of my recruits back in 1997. I got to make him a Marine, so I feel blessed that our paths were able to cross today."

"I truly have to thank the individuals, and some of them aren't here today, that assisted in my promotion," he added. "It's these Marines that I've had the privilege to work with ... and I'm truly blessed and humbled to pick up the rank of master sergeant."

Harrison wasn't the only one at the ceremony who had known McNeese prior to being stationed in Iwakuni. Lance Cpl Christina I. Paz, MALS-12 communications technician,

said it was a pleasure attending in support of her old detachment staff noncommissioned-officer-in-charge from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 in Cherry Point, N.C.

"It's a positive thing," said the Virginia Beach, Va., native. "It's good to see someone who upholds the values and morals of the Marine Corps as an institution being promoted."

What he instills in his MALS-12 Marines today and what he instilled in Harrison then is really the same thing - to uphold the same values and morals, she added.

No matter what he is wearing - be it a green drill instructor belt or a set of master sergeant chevrons - McNeese said he will continue to help those junior to him on the path to success.

"I never understood why anybody would want to be a teacher until I went to be a drill instructor," said McNeese. "As long as you're teaching, whether it's recruits how to be Marines or mentoring young Marines to be better Marines, you're still teaching."

"If you're not teaching them, you're just wasting your time," he added.

Marine overcomes debilitating injury

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

It's been said adversity reveals character.

After more than two years of living with a debilitating injury, one Marine stationed here continues to persevere through daily struggles to lead Marines and prove he's fit for the Corps.

It was Halloween 2005 when Pfc. Nathaniel Despain and his fellow Combat Logistic Company 36 members lined up against another flag football team at the Northside field here. After intercepting a pass late in the game, Despain had his sight on the end zone and a game-winning score. He was tripped up just short of the goal line, however, and an opposing player inadvertently landed on him. One of the player's knees drove into Despain's, leaving him wincing in pain and unable to walk off the field without his teammates' support.

Following his promotion to lance corporal the next day, Despain immediately reported to sick call. The diagnosis: he had a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL); the prescription: surgery followed by physical therapy. If all went well he would be back on his feet in about six months. It was a harsh verdict, yet it was a better scenario than would actually play out.

Despain underwent surgery at Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan, and was then sent home on convalescent leave to Elizabeth, Ind., to recover. At a local hospital he partook in a rigorous physical therapy program to strengthen the muscles around the area and minimize scarring.

Nearly a month later, following a therapy session, Despain felt his knee "crack" and fell to the floor overwhelmed by "excruciating pain."

Despain's patella had cracked in four places and a wire and screw were needed to hold it together in place. Doctors attributed the injury to overuse, according to Despain.

Following his second surgery, Despain returned to Iwakuni, where he followed a less strenuous therapy program, using daily deep-tissue massages, light strength exercises and stretching to get his knee back in shape. Progress was slow, however, and it was during this time that Despain's emotional health began to sink.

"I felt very isolated," said the 23-year-old. "I was basically alone," he added.

Things which were once simple were now difficult and even embarrassing. Despain said he was ashamed of his helplessness.

"I was embarrassed. I didn't want to go to the chow hall because it's difficult to hold a tray when you're on crutches."

Then things got worse. Despain starting feeling the metal wire in his knee moving and was afraid it was going to pierce through his skin. Another surgery was required to replace the wire.

Two weeks later, doctors decided the procedure was unsuccessful and the wire needed to be re-aligned once again. So Despain underwent a fourth

operation.

Next, Despain's mother, Pamela, had a heart attack. Despain flew home to be by her side.

While Pamela recovered, Despain returned to Iwakuni and focused on his duties as a Marine. At CLC-36 Despain fulfilled roles as a warehouse, administrative and supply clerk with unwavering commitment, according to his superiors. To stay in good physical shape, he did upper-body exercises such as push-ups and pull-ups and he swam often.

"He's an outstanding overall Marine. He's got a good attitude," said Master Sgt. Joseph Kohutek, CLC-36 maintenance chief, who himself went through hip replacement and served as a mentor to Despain.

While his work ethic and attitude were in top shape, Despain's knee never recovered. In August 2006 medical staff declared him unfit for duty. But Despain couldn't imagine life outside of the Marine Corps.

"We're instilled with pride. We're proud to wear our uniform," said Despain with conviction. "It's an all-around professional job. You can't find anything like it in the civilian world."

Despain rebutted the medical staff's decision and was prepared to stand a physical evaluation board to state his case and stay in the Corps. It didn't go that far, though. Despain went through his chain-of-command and his condition was reevaluated. Medical officials said he would need to undergo a fifth surgery at a medical facility in California and following recovery could be declared fit for duty.

While his status is still in limbo, Despain's dedication to the Corps is not. Following the injury, Despain, now a corporal and CLC-36 S-3 training noncommissioned officer, could've sat around feeling sorry for himself, becoming a burden to his fellow Marines. But despite his ailment, he makes a positive difference day in and day out, according to fellow Marines and sailors.

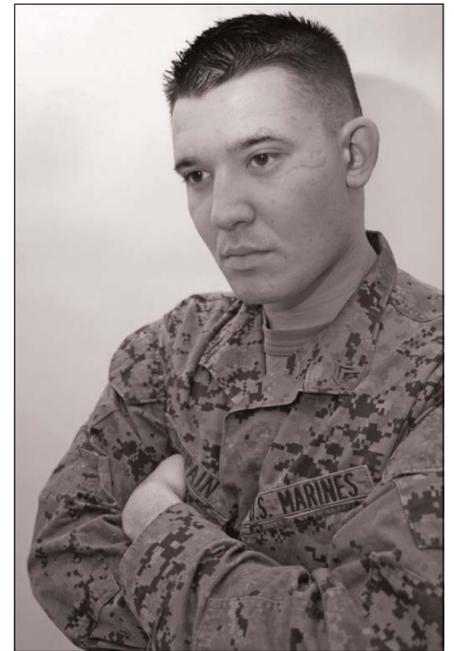
"He's overcome physical and mental challenges," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ruben Fonseca, CLC-36 hospitalman who has guided Despain through physical therapy since the initial operation. "He should be recognized and emulated."

"Nothing would please me more than for him to recover and continue his service in the Marine Corps," said Kohutek.

Despain, who has a scar under his left eye from a car accident and who walks with a noticeable limp, said his knee is very sensitive to pressure and at times excruciatingly painful, even when just lying in bed. Sitting in small cars and planes is very difficult as well as walking down stairs.

"It stops me from doing all types of activities that I want to do - I can't go snowboarding, I can't play basketball or football," said Despain matter-of-factly.

While his injury limits what he can do, Despain continues to support his unit in every way he can. He often takes pictures and makes collages of CLC-36 training and other unit functions. His work is



Cpl. Nathaniel Despain, Combat Logistics Company 36 S-3 training noncommissioned officer and native of Elizabeth, Ind., tore his anterior cruciate ligament while playing intramural football at the Northside field here Halloween 2005.

Photo Illustrations by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



Cpl. Nathaniel Despain is about to undergo his fifth surgery as he fights to stay fit for duty.

on display in the unit's headquarters building war room.

"There's nothing like the Marine Corps," Despain said. "You can't replace the camaraderie, the chance to travel and meet new people and, especially, our honor."

Despain is set to undergo his fifth surgery early this year. If he recovers he plans to reenlist.

"My friends, family and unit have all been very supportive," said Despain, who added his experience has made him mentally stronger and more resilient. "They gave me the courage to push myself and overcome any obstacle."

CLUB FROM PAGE 1

Iwakuni.

"If you ask me, the program we had going on with the club membership was the best in the Marine Corps," said Mask. "Seeing it go is somewhat disappointing, but the good thing is now everyone is a club member."

Until the end of January club members are entitled to such privileges as free anniversary and birthday

meals, card coupons offering \$3 off club events, 20 percent member discounts for each club meal and a free meal for all members at each quarter for a rank-appropriate monthly fee. Now that each Marine is a member, monthly fees as well as discounts are a thing of the past. However, Mask boasts there is still hope for quality food at a reasonable price and convenient location.

"We're currently working on a new club menu," Mask said. "With our new chef, Mr. Naulier, we can

expect a new menu that will reflect new costs for food."

Chase MasterCard-card holders will still be able to receive member benefits from other MCCS-related purchases, according to the MCCS Web site. Card holders can also expect a letter explaining the specific changes being made to their accounts in January.

For more information and Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Corps-wide club changes, visit <http://www.onecorpsclub.com/questions.html>

Iwakuni Paper 2007 year in review



2 September
Mikie Watanabe, Road Rage bass player and native of Hiroshima, takes her turn at the mike during the Summer Music Festival at the Torii Pines Golf Course here. Marine Corps Community Services Productions hosted the free event which included five bands, a buffet-style dinner, drinks and a bounce house for the children. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler*

5 April
A military policeman positions himself during a counter-insurgents exercise as part of Exercise Foal Eagle 2007. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler*



30 May
International soccer players struggle for possession during a preliminary match at Penny Lake Field here. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler*

17 November
Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aircraft rescue and firefighting specialists work to extinguish a blaze at the ARFF training pit here. The training pit is a shallow pool holding about 5,000 gallons of water with a metal frame, simulating a downed aircraft in the center. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler*



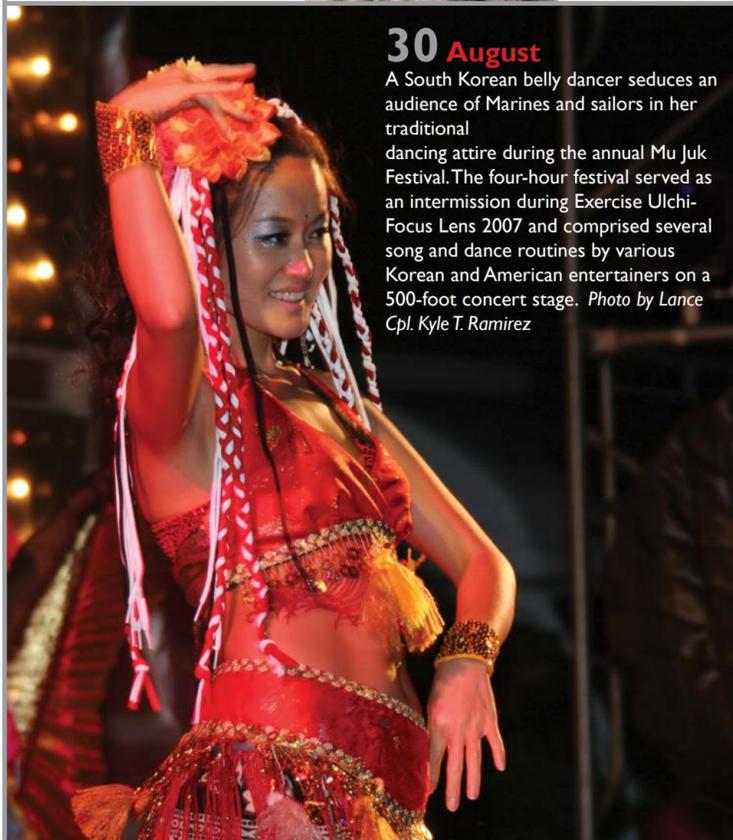
23 August
Staff Sgt. Edward Sliwinski, station military police K-9 handler, kennel master and native of Akron, Ohio, prepares to take a military working dog on an open area scout detection mission during a training exercise here. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs*



3 July
A Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 F/A-18 pilot connects his in-flight refueling probe to the refueling basket on Royal Australian Air Force 33 Squadron's Boeing 707 off the coast here, near a portion of the Great Barrier Reef. VMFA-212 is the flagship squadron of Marine Aircraft Group 12, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade's air combat element during Exercise Talisman Saber 2007. *Photo by Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.*



20 June
Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aircraft rescue and firefighting specialists work to extinguish a blaze at the ARFF training pit here. The training pit is a shallow pool holding about 5,000 gallons of water with a metal frame, simulating a downed aircraft in the center. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler*



30 August
A South Korean belly dancer seduces an audience of Marines and sailors in her traditional dancing attire during the annual Mu Juk Festival. The four-hour festival served as an intermission during Exercise Ulchi-Focus Lens 2007 and comprised several song and dance routines by various Korean and American entertainers on a 500-foot concert stage. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez*



11 July Marines from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 arrive to take part in a joint training exercise. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs*

11 September
An MH-53 Sea Dragon helicopter, manned by the newly-arrived Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 detachment, circles the air station during their day's training exercise. During their year stay here, the detachment will train on MH-53 operations including airborne mine detection (AMD) and vertical onboard delivery (VOD). *Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez*



19 July
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent speaks to Iwakuni Marines during his visit and tour of the air station. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler*



25 July
Col. Michael A. Dyer, former Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer and native of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, renders a salute during the change of command ceremony on the flight line here. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler*

LOOKING AHEAD

Out with the old, in with the new



Since the first issue in 1955, the Torii Teller established itself as the air station's premier news source. For 50 years the periodical brought both local and Corps-wide events and information to Iwakuni readers.

In 2005, the Teller got an electronic face-lift and The Kintai Shimbun was born. The Internet-based compilation of news, feature and sports coverage on and around the air station was now a mouse-click away for tech-savvy subscribers the world over.

But with the new year comes new changes, and the Public Affairs Office is pleased to announce the same Shimbun substance in a pleasing paper publication with the arrival of The Iwakuni Paper. Look no further than your local newsstand every Friday for the free 12-page tabloid choc-full of the latest air station happenings.

Like the idea but not the name? Give us a call at 253-555 1 or shoot an e-mail to IWKN_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil and provide your input on a new title. We're also accepting editorial and article submissions, so let your voice be heard and opinions known.

It's *your* newspaper.

AROUND THE CORPS

3rd LAAD tests battlefield skill in Djibouti



Leathernecks with 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion move into position after exiting a CH-53 helicopter at Range TC-11 Dec. 26. The helo extraction was followed by a fire and movement exercise. Photos by Sgt. Alec Kleinsmith



Cpl. David A. Claypool, a field radio operator with 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, scans the horizon for potential targets before ordering his Marines forward during a fire and movement exercise at Range TC-11 Dec. 26.

Sgt. Alec Kleinsmith
MCB CAMP PENDLETON

DJIBOUTI, Africa (Jan. 4, 2008) - The leathernecks of Battery A, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion tested their mettle against the Djiboutian landscape during a fire and movement exercise Dec. 26.

A classic staple in Marine Corps infantry training, fire and movement exercises encompass a variety of battlefield techniques, from proper rushing protocol to communication.

"We wanted to refresh the Marines in their tactics and ensure they're proficient with all the weapons systems," said 2nd Lt. Sung C. Park, a platoon commander with Battery A, 3rd LAAD. "Even though we're not an infantry unit, we want to stress that every Marine is a rifleman."

In addition, the Marines familiarized themselves with insertion and extraction operations via air support, said Park, from Chantilly, Va.

Riding in a CH-53 helicopter was a first for most of the Marines, many of whom joined the battalion as individual augments with varying occupational specialties.

"Overall we did well as a group, given the situation and the amount of time we had," said Cpl. David A. Claypool, a field radio operator with Battery A. "Since a large number of the Marines are augments who don't do this kind of training often, I think we did a good job."

Although impressed with the Marines' performance, Claypool knows that continuous practice will only strengthen their tactics and iron out minor kinks.

"We can improve more on our dispersion and communication," remarked Claypool, from New Plymouth, Idaho. "The enemy looks for big targets, so we don't want to give them one."



Marines from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion exchange rounds before gearing up for a fire and movement exercise at Range TC-11 Dec. 26.

Community Briefs

Sports

CPO Open

Golf Tournament

Sept. 15 at 11 a.m. at Torii Pines Golf Course. \$29 format will be shotgun start. Individual handicap. Longest drive. Closest to the pin. Ducee club. Mulligans will be sold. Food and drinks will be available. For more information, call 253-4243 or 4650.

Moonlight Bowling

Every Saturday at the Bowling Center beginning at 6 p.m. There is a \$25 money shot at the end of each game and a progressive jackpot at the end of all three games. For more

details, call 253-3495.

SWEAT Program

(Strength, Wellness Education & Aerobic Training): This program is designed to help active duty personnel. The program includes a MicroFit Assessment, weekly weigh-ins (by request), monthly body fat testing, weight management lectures, President's Challenge entry and attendance and progress tracking reports. For more information, call 253-5051.

SWEATE Program

(Strength, Wellness Education & Aerobic Training for Everyone): This program is designed

to help anyone interested in achieving total fitness. The program includes body fat assessment and weekly weigh-ins (by request), President's Challenge entry and attendance and progress tracking reports. SWEATE incorporates the four components of total fitness. For more information, call 253-5051.

Bowling Focus Group

Interested in bowling and want to know what's happening in the bowling community? Call 253-3495.

All-Marine Rugby

Semper Fit is seeking players and a coach for the women's All-Marine team. Please call 253-3067 for information.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Mass
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Education

Protestant

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Protestant Service
	1:00 p.m.	Spanish Fellowship
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Awana (Bldg. 1104)
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays	6:30 a.m.	Youth Activities
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Islamic

Friday	Noon	Prayer
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Jewish

Friday	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat
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Teen Programs

For times, call 253-5183: High School Meetings, Junior High Meetings, HS and JR Bible Studies, Retreats, Service Projects, Mission Trips, Special Events Volunteer Training and Mentoring, Parent Support Groups

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/ Chapel Activity call the Station Chapel at 253-5218

please call the UMUC office at 253-3392.

Iwakuni Club Beyond

(Chapel Youth Club) Club Beyond is a globally recognized, command endorsed and funded, faith based youth program that desires to reach out to every military student in grades 7th - 12th. Club Beyond will have monthly events along with retreats and service projects. The youth meetings consist of games, skits, music and a faith based talk. For more information, call 253-5183 or e-mail: IwakuniCB@gmail.com for more information. Or visit our website at <http://iwakuniteens.blogspot.com>

Branch Health Clinic

Announcement: The Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni now has a one stop automated answering system at extension 253-5571. For a medical emergency dial 911 if you are on base or if you are off base dial 21-7700.

Adventure

Tondo Festivals

If you're driving or biking along the rivers that run through town or in the countryside around the middle of January you may well see groups of people gathered around large bonfires, eating and drinking. This is the tondo matsuri, which is held on or around koshogatsu - literally means "small new year", and is celebrated at lunar New Year. Local communities gather at the site of their bonfire and burn the New Year decorations, roast mochi and warm sake over the flames, and fan

the smoke from the burnt decorations for good luck. The large Gokoku Shrine, located in the city next to the castle will hold its tondo matsuri on Jan 15th from 10am. You can get an idea of the event from the video below.

Our local shrine Waseda-jinja in Ushita has its tondo on Jan 14 from 18:00. Follow the smoke plumes to the festivals at other shrines, schools and parks.

Mt. Jodoji Hike

Onomichi-city, a popular tourist destination is backed by three peaks named after the temples which sit at the foot each mountain; Senkoji-yama (136m), Saigokuji-yama (116m) and Jodoji-yama (178m). The GANSU international hiking group's January outing will be to Jodoji-yama on Jan. 20.

From JR Onomichi Station, we will walk east on a stone-paved, zigzag path for 40 minutes to Jodoji Temple. From the grounds of the temple, we will take an hour ascent to the 178-meter Mt. Jodoji. Needless to say, the views of the Onomichi Channel with studded islands on the Inland Sea for a background are breathtaking. It is said Jodoji Temple was founded in the seventh century, shortly after Buddhism's arrival via China and Korea, by a famous prince, Shotoku-taishi, who made the basic structure of the state of Japan. Hondo (Main Hall) and Tahoto (Treasure Tower) of the temple are national treasures that can be seen along with other cultural assets including statues of the crown prince. The outing will be cancelled if it rains.

Community

UMUC Academic Advisor Visit

January 28-30, at Building 411, Room 110. Appointments from 8 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Appointment slots fill up quickly, so make a reservation early to ensure the time most convenient for you. To make an appointment,

The Iwakuni Paper

Classified Ads

AUTOMOBILES

1993 NISSAN CEDRIC , 4 door coupe, asking for \$2,800.00/OBO. JCI till April 2009. V6 engine, good AC and heat, power everything, 17" alloy rims with pro tires, has only 75,000 MILES (120,000 KILO.) Has been kept smoker free!! Tinted rear windows! Runs great! For more information, call cell: 080-3469-4659 OR 253-6358.

1995 HONDA Odessey , Mini van. Asking for \$900 OBO, JCI till February 2008. 5 door/green. Heater and A/C works great. Van is in good condition. PCS'ing soon, must sell. Any inquiries, please contact 253-2382.

OTHER ITEMS

Danner Boots , Two pairs of Danner Boots size 9R, 1 pair ICB and 1 pair warm weather. Warm weather boots worn for a week, ICBs are brand new. \$70.00 for the Warm weather and \$80.00 for the ICBs. For more information, call W/253-6781 or H/253-2256.

55 Gallon Aquarium , Asking \$200 or OBO. aquarium tank hood/lights. Custom-made stand/canopy, many extras. For more information, call 253-6223 or 253-4815.

BOWFLEX, Gently used BOWFLEX for sale. Includes leg attachment. Asking \$350 OBO. Please call cell: 080-3402-3737 for information or to see it.

Beautiful Chase Lounge , Great condition (two minor flaws). Paid \$800 for it six months ago. Asking \$400 OBO. For more information, call H/253-7790.

JOB OPENINGS

Training & Curriculum Specialist, SALARY: \$38,824 to \$50,470 per annum The incumbent serves as the education program specialist for Children, Youth and Teen Programs (CYTP). Carries primary responsibility for CYTP staff and Family Child Care (FCC) provider training program including developmental programming oversight, assessment and evaluation of the assigned program area.

Recreation Assistant, SALARY: \$25,623 to \$33,309 per annum Responsible for ensuring that the use of all facilities and equipment, such as the basketball courts, exercise rooms, racquetball courts, etc. located in the base gymnasium is appropriate to accepted recreational programs. The incumbent reviews scheduled functions in order to ascertain what special preparations are required.

Supervisory Recreation Specialist, SALARY: \$35,151 to \$45,699 per annum Incumbent will serve as Aquatics Manager for the Marine Corps Community Services, Semper Fit Division Aquatics Section, Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni. The incumbent is responsible to the Semper Fit Director for the overall administrative and

operational management of the Aquatics program.

Director, Marine and Family Services Division, SALARY: \$66,951 to \$87,039 per annum Provides management oversight and direction for and through subordinate supervisors for Marine and Family Services Division (MFSD) functions. Performs a variety of duties and related responsibilities with delegated authority to assist the MCCA Director in the long-range planning, coordination, operation and supervision of MCCA operations.

Sales Store Checker, SALARY: GS-03: \$9.78 TO \$12.71 PER HOURS Obtains cash drawer from cash clerks or supervisor, and keys personal checker code into assigned register. Operates a cash register/scanning system to record unit prices, proper accounts, purchase totals, surcharge, and correct change due. Determines proper prices by unit marketing standards.



JOIN IN COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Visit the Station Chapel
Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
"Remember! Celebrate! Act!"
A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF!

Late touchdowns propel Lancers over ATC 15-14

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

In dramatic come-from-behind fashion, the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 Lancers defeated Air Traffic Control, 15-14, in an intramural football playoff game at the North Side field here Monday.

ATC scored twice in the game's first three minutes while the Lancers answered with two scores and a two-point conversion in the final three minutes.

"We just stuck together as a team," said Lancers' coach Jack Stewart. "We hung tough. We knew we could do it."

Following the Lancers' first touchdown and 2-point conversion, Lancers' quarterback Hugh Wingate put his team in position for the game-tying score with an interception at ATC's 30-yard line. With 40 seconds left, Wingate found receiver William Higgins for an 8-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 14. Wingate then connected with receiver Steven Davis for the winning extra-point conversion.

"(Davis) ran an out route to the corner of the end zone," said Wingate. "That was the play of the game."

ATC controlled most of the game after quarterback Ryan Albsmeyer picked off Davis (the Lancers' quarterback in the first half) in the game's opening play and took the ball 25 yards into the end zone. On ATC's next possession, running back Esteban Ramirez zigzagged past several Lancers' defenders as he completed a 20-yard touchdown run, giving ATC a two-score lead.

"We felt pretty good at that point," said Ramirez who added that ATC defeated the Lancers in regular season play. "But we knew we still had a tough game in front of us. (The Lancers) were hungry for revenge."

Wingate got the Lancers' on the board with a 10-yard touchdown run with 3:10 left in the game. He then completed a 10-yard pass to Davis for a two-point conversion.

Davis said one of the keys to the Lancers' last-minute scoring barrage was his position swap with Wingate (the Lancers' regular quarterback) at the start of the second half.

"I'm more comfortable playing receiver," said Davis, who was Wingate's go-to receiver in the closing minutes. "Once we switched it up, we



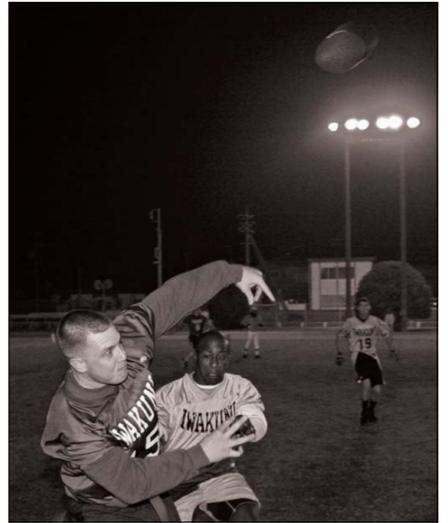
Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 Lancers' running back, Jeremy Joiner, attempts to make a move on Air Traffic Control's cornerback, Jose Pacheco, during an intramural flag football playoff game at the North Side field here Jan. 7. The Lancers scored two touchdowns and converted a two-point conversion in the final three minutes to win the game. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

started moving the ball a lot more. I think that was one of the keys to our comeback."

The game's final score proved that a penalty against ATC late in the second half was costly. On fourth and goal from the one-yard line, Albsmeyer connected with receiver Jose Pacheco in the end zone, but the referees waived the play because of illegal contact. ATC failed to convert on its following attempt, turning the ball over on downs.

Intramural football playoff games are scheduled for tonight at 8 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. The championship game is scheduled for Thursday at 6 p.m. All games are played at the Northside field.

Air Traffic Control's quarterback, Ryan Albsmeyer, gets rid of the ball as he is pursued by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 "Lancers'" defensive end, Conrad Alston, during an intramural flag football playoff game at the Northside field here Jan. 7.



MCTV MOVIE SCHEDULE

Tuesday	
8:00 p.m.	Messengers, The (R)
11:00 p.m.	Number 23, The (R)
Wednesday	
2:00 a.m.	Stick It (PG-13)
5:00 a.m.	Doctor Strange (PG-13)
11:00 a.m.	Because I Said So (PG-13)
2:00 p.m.	Stick It (PG-13)
5:00 p.m.	Doctor Strange (PG-13)
8:00 p.m.	Shaggy Dog, The (PG)
11:00 p.m.	Because I Said So (PG-13)
Thursday	
2:00 a.m.	Night at the Museum (PG)
5:00 a.m.	Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13)
11:00 a.m.	Invisible, The (PG-13)
5:00 p.m.	Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13)
8:00 p.m.	88 Minutes (R)
11:00 p.m.	Invisible, The (PG-13)
Friday	
2:00 a.m.	Hard Luck (R)
5:00 a.m.	Captivity (R)
11:00 a.m.	Find Me Guilty (R)
2:00 p.m.	Hard Luck (R)

SAKURA THEATER



I am Legend (PG-13)

Saturday 1:00 p.m.

National Treasure (PG)

Friday 7:00 P.M.

Charlie Wilson's War (R)

Friday 10:00 p.m.

Saturday 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 4:00 p.m.

Martian Child (PG)

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Will Smith plays Robert Neville, a struggling survivor of a monstrous plague in search of a cure.



Enchanted (PG)

Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Lions For Lambs (R)

Saturday 10:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:00 p.m.

Julie Andrews in a classic Disney fairy tale that collides with modern-day New York City.

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

MARINE LOUNGE POOL TOURNAMENT

Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Marine Lounge hosts its weekend pool tournament every Saturday, Sunday and holiday at 2 p.m.. Saturday's are Nine Ball tournaments and Sunday's are Eight Ball tournaments. There is a \$5 entry fee. Cash prizes are awarded to first and second places.

YOGA DAY USA

Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Attend the 2008 Yoga Day USA Activity Workshop. Discover the variety of Yoga formats. Learn the benefits of Yoga and how it is for everyone, regardless of age, body type or fitness level. No previous registration required. Yoga mats, blocks and stretch bands available. Feel free to bring your own supplies. Please bring a towel and water bottle.

POWERLIFTING BRIEF

Jan. 26, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Prepare for the Open Bench Press Competition March 22 or just learn how to safely increase your strength in just six weeks! Attend the brief to learn the Powerlifting techniques used by a National Powerlifting competitor. The brief will be held in the Wellness Room at Ironworks gym. Sign up by Jan. 23 by calling 253-5051 or send an email to williamsi@usmc-mccs.mil.

INVITATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Semper Fit's Intramural/Varsity Sports will host an Invitational Racquetball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym Racquetball Courts. For further information contact Intramural/Varsity Sports at 253-3067.

Untouchables outlast S.M.M.O 63-43, claim MTDR tourney

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
THE IWAKUNI PAPER STAFF

With aggressive play and hustle, the "Untouchables" ran past "Show Me My Opponent" 63-43 to claim the Make the Dream Real Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Saturday.

S.M.M.O.'s shooting guard Jamal Winston's 14-point effort was no match for the Untouchables, whose balanced offensive attack featured three players with double digit scoring.

At tip-off the teams looked fairly evenly matched, though the Untouchables had a slight size advantage. S.M.M.O., who lost to Marine Aircraft Group 12 47-44 in its first game of the eight-team double-elimination tournament Friday, had just rallied to defeat MAG-12 in an overtime game 47-44 to advance to the championship game. It was their third game in a row while the undefeated Untouchables hadn't played in nearly three hours.

The well-rested Untouchables wasted no time getting on the board, attacking the goal for easy scores and getting off to a 7-0 lead. However, S.M.M.O. responded with a 9-point unanswered streak of its own, taking

a 9-7 lead with 12 minutes left in the first half.

S.M.M.O. was unable to keep up the pace, though. The Untouchables were patient on offense, exploiting gaps in S.M.M.O.'s defense to deliver plays such as point guard Anthony Alexander's precision bounce pass from beyond the arc to power forward Mario Brown, who laid it in for two.

"We don't dribble a lot," said Alexander, who is also the Untouchables' coach. "We make sure we pass it to the open man so we get a good look at the basket."

Meanwhile, in attempt to keep up with the Untouchables, S.M.M.O. began forcing its shots. The long rebounds resulted in several Untouchables' fast breaks and a 27-18 Untouchables' lead as the half drew to a close.

To pull off the come-from-behind win, S.M.M.O. needed some breaks to go its way. The Untouchables were outplaying them and were controlling the boards on both ends. S.M.M.O. stuck to its pre-game strategy, however.

"We just kept trying to move around and find open shots," said Winston.

S.M.M.O. did find some open shots

but not enough fell.

The lack of offense was certainly a major factor; however, the game's deciding aspect was effort. The Untouchables' hustle, exemplified by Brown's steal on an S.M.M.O. inbound pass which he took all the way to the other end for the score, was simply too much for S.M.M.O. Ten minutes into the second half, the Untouchables opened up a 16-point lead they never relinquished.

"It was all heart and determination," said Alexander. "We wanted to win pretty bad. We killed them; we took their heart away."

After its first-round loss, S.M.M.O. faced a difficult schedule, playing an extra game with little rest between contests. Contending in the championship game was a feat in itself.

"We've been playing all day," said still-winded Winston. "It took a toll on our legs. We couldn't sustain the energy."

The MTDR tournament was one of several basketball competitions held at IronWorks throughout the year. Next on the schedule is the intramural season, which begins March 17. A coaches' meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 9 a.m. in the IronWorks Wellness Room. To sign up or for fur-



Untouchables' point guard and coach Anthony Alexander soars for a lay-up during the Make the Dream Real Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Jan. 5. The Untouchables were undefeated in the tournament and claimed the championship. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

ther information, contact Intramural Sports at 253-3067.



Show Me My Opponent shooting guard Gregory Flowers takes a jump shot over power forward Mario Brown Untouchable power forward Mario Brown during Make the Dream Real Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Jan. 5. S.M.M.O. went on several offensive spurts, but couldn't keep up with the sustained effort of the Untouchables, who had three players in double-digit scoring and won the championship.