CMC signs Corps vision, strategy document

WASHINGTON (June 20, 2008) - Gen. James T. Conway recently signed the Service Vision and Strategy document to guide the Marine Corps into an era beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

The document, which has been in the works since late fall 2007, reinforces the Corps’ role as the nation’s expeditionary force-in-being.

“We brought in 25 lieutenant colonels and colonels from all of the operational commands and Headquarters Marine Corps to study past trends and patterns relevant to conflict in combat and make an assessment of what the world will look like in 2025,” said Col. Steven Zotti, director, Strategic Vision Group. “This document reflects our findings, subsequent work, and will put us in a better position to deal with emerging challenges in the future.”

Zotti also said every Marine should know that the service-level strategy plans to maintain a persistent Corps presence in volatile areas of the world. The Strategic Vision Group hopes this regional focus will better Marine Corps relationships with partners and minimize the learning curve for crises.

Marine units currently conduct two or three weeks of episodic training in foreign countries before deploying to another region.

“We’ve learned that’s not as useful,” Zotti said. “We need to be around to help other countries build their military forces and keep their problems below the combat level. This doesn’t mean the Marine Corps won’t be globally capable, it just means we’re going to prioritize our efforts to meet the combatant commander’s demands.”

Another highlighted item in the document involves capitalizing on successes in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province and acquiring specialized culture and language training for Marines.

“Operations in Basra showed us that Iraqi units trained by Marines did better than others,” Zotti said. “That’s because our Marines and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point as crash crewmen … and we always looked forward for the opportunity to come back and serve the Marines of Iwakuni,” he said. “And that’s exactly what we’re going to do – serve.”

Fireside chat with top admiral

WASHINGTON (June 19, 2008) - Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates met with Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to discuss the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan and other areas of regional concern.

Gates told the admiral that the United States is committed to a regional strategy called “Regional Forward Presence.”

The Marine Corps is well positioned to contribute to the Regional Forward Presence strategy.

“We’re getting way too heavy as a Corps and we know that,” Zotti said. “We’ve learned that’s not as useful,” Zotti said. “We need to be around to help other countries build their military forces and keep their problems below the combat level. This doesn’t mean the Marine Corps won’t be globally capable, it just means we’re going to prioritize our efforts to meet the combatant commander’s demands.”

Another highlighted item in the document involves capitalizing on successes in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province and acquiring specialized culture and language training for Marines.

“Operations in Basra showed us that Iraqi units trained by Marines did better than others,” Zotti said. “That’s because our Marines are very capable in taking their skills and teaching others. We just need more trained advisers. That’s something we’re going to work on in cooperation with the Army and Special Operations Command.”

Expanding the Marine Corps’ naval relationships and getting back to its expeditionary roots in terms of leaner and lighter equipment is another top priority for the Strategic Vision Group.

“We’re getting way too heavy as a Corps and we know that,” Zotti said. “But we have to stay loyal on future battlefields, and serve the Marines of Iwakuni,” he said.

Sgt. Maj. David J. Wimberly addressed attendees at his relief and appointment ceremony Wednesday. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

CMC signs Corps vision, strategy document

WASHINGTON (June 20, 2008) - Gen. James T. Conway recently signed the Service Vision and Strategy document to guide the Marine Corps into an era beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

The document, which has been in the works since late fall 2007, reinforces the Corps’ role as the nation’s expeditionary force-in-being.

“We brought in 25 lieutenant colonels and colonels from all of the operational commands and Headquarters Marine Corps to study past trends and patterns relevant to conflict in combat and make an assessment of what the world will look like in 2025,” said Col. Steven Zotti, director, Strategic Vision Group. “This document reflects our findings, subsequent work, and will put us in a better position to deal with emerging challenges in the future.”

Zotti also said every Marine should know that the service-level strategy plans to maintain a persistent Corps presence in volatile areas of the world. The Strategic Vision Group hopes this regional focus will better Marine Corps relationships with partners and minimize the learning curve for crises.

Marine units currently conduct two or three weeks of episodic training in foreign countries before deploying to another region.

“We’ve learned that’s not as useful,” Zotti said. “We need to be around to help other countries build their military forces and keep their problems below the combat level. This doesn’t mean the Marine Corps won’t still be globally capable, it just means we’re going to prioritize our efforts to meet the combatant commander’s demands.”

Another highlighted item in the document involves capitalizing on successes in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province and acquiring specialized culture and language training for Marines.

“Operations in Basra showed us that Iraqi units trained by Marines did better than others,” Zotti said. “That’s because our Marines and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point as crash crewmen … and we always looked forward for the opportunity to come back and serve the Marines of Iwakuni,” he said. “And that’s exactly what we’re going to do – serve.”

Fireside chat with top admiral

WASHINGTON (June 19, 2008) - Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates met with Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to discuss the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan and other areas of regional concern.

Gates told the admiral that the United States is committed to a regional strategy called “Regional Forward Presence.”

The Marine Corps is well positioned to contribute to the Regional Forward Presence strategy.

“We’re getting way too heavy as a Corps and we know that,” Zotti said. “We’ve learned that’s not as useful,” Zotti said. “We need to be around to help other countries build their military forces and keep their problems below the combat level. This doesn’t mean the Marine Corps won’t be globally capable, it just means we’re going to prioritize our efforts to meet the combatant commander’s demands.”

Another highlighted item in the document involves capitalizing on successes in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province and acquiring specialized culture and language training for Marines.

“Operations in Basra showed us that Iraqi units trained by Marines did better than others,” Zotti said. “That’s because our Marines are very capable in taking their skills and teaching others. We just need more trained advisers. That’s something we’re going to work on in cooperation with the Army and Special Operations Command.”

Expanding the Marine Corps’ naval relationships and getting back to its expeditionary roots in terms of leaner and lighter equipment is another top priority for the Strategic Vision Group.

“We’re getting way too heavy as a Corps and we know that,” Zotti said. “But we have to stay loyal on future battlefields, and serve the Marines of Iwakuni,” he said.

Sgt. Maj. David J. Wimberly addressed attendees at his relief and appointment ceremony Wednesday. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

CMC signs Corps vision, strategy document

WASHINGTON (June 20, 2008) - Gen. James T. Conway recently signed the Service Vision and Strategy document to guide the Marine Corps into an era beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

The document, which has been in the works since late fall 2007, reinforces the Corps’ role as the nation’s expeditionary force-in-being.

“We brought in 25 lieutenant colonels and colonels from all of the operational commands and Headquarters Marine Corps to study past trends and patterns relevant to conflict in combat and make an assessment of what the world will look like in 2025,” said Col. Steven Zotti, director, Strategic Vision Group. “This document reflects our findings, subsequent work, and will put us in a better position to deal with emerging challenges in the future.”

Zotti also said every Marine should know that the service-level strategy plans to maintain a persistent Corps presence in volatile areas of the world. The Strategic Vision Group hopes this regional focus will better Marine Corps relationships with partners and minimize the learning curve for crises.

Marine units currently conduct two or three weeks of episodic training in foreign countries before deploying to another region.

“We’ve learned that’s not as useful,” Zotti said. “We need to be around to help other countries build their military forces and keep their problems below the combat level. This doesn’t mean the Marine Corps won’t still be globally capable, it just means we’re going to prioritize our efforts to meet the combatant commander’s demands.”

Another highlighted item in the document involves capitalizing on successes in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province and acquiring specialized culture and language training for Marines.

“Operations in Basra showed us that Iraqi units trained by Marines did better than others,” Zotti said. “That’s because our Marines and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point as crash crewmen … and we always looked forward for the opportunity to come back and serve the Marines of Iwakuni,” he said. “And that’s exactly what we’re going to do – serve.”

Fireside chat with top admiral

WASHINGTON (June 19, 2008) - Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates met with Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to discuss the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan and other areas of regional concern.

Gates told the admiral that the United States is committed to a regional strategy called “Regional Forward Presence.”

The Marine Corps is well positioned to contribute to the Regional Forward Presence strategy.

“We’re getting way too heavy as a Corps and we know that,” Zotti said. “We’ve learned that’s not as useful,” Zotti said. “We need to be around to help other countries build their military forces and keep their problems below the combat level. This doesn’t mean the Marine Corps won’t still be globally capable, it just means we’re going to prioritize our efforts to meet the combatant commander’s demands.”

Another highlighted item in the document involves capitalizing on successes in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province and acquiring specialized culture and language training for Marines.

“Operations in Basra showed us that Iraqi units trained by Marines did better than others,” Zotti said. “That’s because our Marines and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point as crash crewmen … and we always looked forward for the opportunity to come back and serve the Marines of Iwakuni,” he said. “And that’s exactly what we’re going to do – serve.”
To prevent drowning pool dressing, layers of protection are essential. Place barriers completely around the pool, closely supervise young children even if it’s a kids pool in the yard. If a child is missing, always look first in the pool. Seconds count! Knowing how to swim doesn’t make a child drown-proof. Never use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.

Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Your children are more at risk with cancer.

Swimmers should be aware of surf conditions and exercise caution when going into the water even if they are familiar with the area. If the waves seem large and beyond a swimmer’s abilities, the swimmer should remain on shore. Every year people are caught by large waves and are swept out to sea. Waves have the ability to pull people standing on the shorelines into the water.

If you are in open water, a person needs to be aware of tidal dangers. They could consist of rocks, tree stumps and debris. Make sure, when entering water where you cannot see the bottom, you look before you leap. It is estimated that over 80 percent of all surf-related rescues are attributed to rip currents. Most people associate rip currents with their more common erroneous names of “underwater and rip tides.” Although some beaches are more prone to rip currents than others, these currents occur in almost every coastal location around the globe, including the Great Lakes. Rip currents are hard to spot by the untrained eye. If you become caught in a rip current, you’ll be able to tell when you try to swim toward shore and have great difficulty. The current won’t pull you under; it will simply pull you away from shore. The best thing to do is to remain calm and stay alive. Rip currents are usually fairly narrow — 20 or 30 yards across. Try swimming sideways through the current until you are out of it, then swim to shore. Another option is to let the current carry you out until it reaches the point called the rip head, usually outside the surf zone. It is here that the current begins to break up and you will no longer feel the water pulling you out. Now swim at an angle away from the current and back toward land.

When dealing with any aquatic environment, remember the number one way to stay safe in and around water is to develop a respect for the water and use common sense.  

Preventing disaster in the water

Submitted by the Station Safety Office and Semper Fi

101 Critical Days of Summer

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Seize the Day

Chaplain John Cometa
Station Chaplain

The ancient Philosopher Heraclitus stated, “You cannot step into the same river twice, minimum,uddled point.”

Seize the day, put trust in tomorrow.

Similar words are expressed in Matthew 6:

“Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or wear.”

Richard Blackaby, author of best-selling book, “Experiencing God” once wrote, “No one, regardless of worldly rank, strength or wealth has been able to escape death, as soon as we are born, death becomes our destiny.”

Many have tried, but no one has developed an autobiography for life that is linked, life is short.

It is in the light that I have resolved to live each day as if it were my last day on earth.

Before I go to work, I always hug my wife and children and show them how much I love them so that if I don’t come back alive, I leave them good memories.

Without doubt, how life is and what I do today influences those who observe either positively or negatively and will leave a legacy.

As we progress on the matter of the high calling of God, always remember we are here for our future.

God said, “I will never leave you neither will I forlorn you.”

As the saying goes, how may not know our future, but we know who is holding our future.

May we continue to seize the day for God and for our country.

COMMANDER

Col. Michael A. O’Halloran

Master Gunnery Sgt. Hiro Sumida

Webmaster

Yuko Wada

FPO AP 96310-0019

Public Affairs Office

Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Editors

Sgt. Josh Cox, Managing Lance Cpl. Ky T. Ramirez

Combat Correspondents

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marinelli

Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marinelli

Hiroko Soriki

Hiro Sumida

Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Public Affairs Chief

Master Gunnery Sgt. John A. Conlery

Chaplain

Hiroko Soriki

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marinelli

Webmaster

Hiro Sumida

“00:00 - 14:00”

Youth Council

Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Volunteer Participation

Yukie Wada

Officer of the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All questions concerning news and editorial submissions should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCB Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will be published. Letters are the opinions 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.mca.ics@mcas.mil.
A new GI Bill

The Honorable President George W. Bush signs updated education bill

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY
OVAL OFFICE

THE PRESIDENT

Good morning. A few moments ago I signed legislation that funds our troops who are in harm’s way. Our nation has no greater responsibility than supporting our men and women in uniform — especially since we’re at war. This is a responsibility all of us in Washington share — not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans. And I want to thank leaders of the House and Senate for getting this bill to my desk.

America remains a nation at war. There are enemies who intend to harm us. Standing in their way are brave men and women, who put on the uniform, who raise their right hand, and took an oath to defend our freedom.

They volunteered to deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their families. They endure sleepless nights, and the daily struggle of caring for children while a loved one is serving far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes an expansion of the GI Bill. This legislation will make it easier for our troops to transfer unused education benefits to their spouses and children.

And I want to thank leaders of the House and Senate for getting this bill to my desk.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to our nation’s military families. They endure sleepless nights, and the daily struggle of caring for children while a loved one is serving far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.

The bill also includes a measured expansion of the GI Bill to help ensure that any state facing a disaster like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest has access to needed resources.

This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a maximum 12-month requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I proposed.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet — especially the leaders of Defense and State, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I’m particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank members who worked hard for the GI Bill expansion — especially Senators Warner, Bond, Bingaman, Snowe, Grassley, and McCain.

This bill provides necessary funds to support our troops as they deploy in distant lands, far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for their responsibilities to those who support our troops every day — America’s great military families.
It’s difficult to take life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for granted when you’re part of an organization sworn to defend it.

When liberty was sounded Wednesday afternoon, starting 96 hours of liberty for the fourth-of-July-weekend, most took it upon themselves to take advantage of their off time the Marine Corps way and the American way.

Whether it was done by consuming copious amounts of marinated meats or basking in the consecutive days of agreeable sunlight, station residents were spotted celebrating their day — or days — of sweet independence.

The fabled day of American lore just 232 years ago is normally associated with very American pastimes including fireworks, picnics, barbecues, concerts and public speeches. All was no different this year for Far East residents who promise to fight for rights and freedom declared on that faithful.

The Strike Zone, the station’s new hi-tech bowling facility, made its debut with the help of station residents and leaders eager to explore its top-quality gaming experience. A massive firework show courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services illuminated the sea wall, residents and visitors the night-of. Some made their way to Club Iwakuni where the festivities continued in live music and dancing.

Whatever the doings, residents shined their light of freedom to yet another side of the globe.

Talking about American service members, President George W. Bush mentioned in his fourth-of-July radio address, “These brave Americans make it possible for America to endure as a free society.”

Residents funnel into the Strike Zone bowling facility moments after a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 4. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Residents funnel into the Strike Zone bowling facility moments after a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 4. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Pyrotechnics light up the sky over Penny Lake with brilliant noise and color July 4. The 8:30 p.m. display courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services had residents and visitors waiting on the sea wall for their front-row seats. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox

Station residents and visitors crowd the sea wall to watch a fireworks display courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services July 4. The show lasted nearly 10 minutes over Penny Lake here. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Strike Zone, the station’s new hi-tech bowling facility, made its debut with the help of station residents and leaders eager to explore its top-quality gaming experience. A massive firework show courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services illuminated the sea wall, residents and visitors the night-of. Some made their way to Club Iwakuni where the festivities continued in live music and dancing.

Whether it was done by consuming copious amounts of marinated meats or basking in the consecutive days of agreeable sunlight, station residents were spotted celebrating their day — or days — of sweet independence.

The fabled day of American lore just 232 years ago is normally associated with very American pastimes including fireworks, picnics, barbecues, concerts and public speeches. All was no different this year for Far East residents who promise to fight for rights and freedom declared on that faithful.

The Strike Zone, the station’s new hi-tech bowling facility, made its debut with the help of station residents and leaders eager to explore its top-quality gaming experience. A massive firework show courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services illuminated the sea wall, residents and visitors the night-of. Some made their way to Club Iwakuni where the festivities continued in live music and dancing.

Whatever the doings, residents shined their light of freedom to yet another side of the globe.

Talking about American service members, President George W. Bush mentioned in his fourth-of-July radio address, "These brave Americans make it possible for America to endure as a free society."
**AROUND THE CORPS**

**-designed education goals**

military training could help attain a degree, but college course. “I’ve seen Marines come to me with half of their Joint Education Center, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Some of the cast members will be asked to try for a rehearsal immediately following the auditions. Approximately 200 roles are available for local students. All students (ages entering 6th grade through 12th grade) are encouraged to audition. No advance preparation is necessary. Most students rehearse approximately 4-5 hours each day, Monday through Friday. Performances are scheduled for Aug. 3, 4 p.m. (matinee show) and 7 p.m. (evening show) at the Sakura Theater.

**Around the Corps**

**SMART unlocks education goals**

Cpl. Juan D. Alfonso

Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. “I’m a lot closer to a degree in business doesn’t help if a Marine is already up on their household task. If you have any questions, please call the laboratory at 253-6047.

**Roman Catholic**

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Confession 5:30 p.m. Mass 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:45 a.m. Religious Education 11:30 a.m. Worship Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Inquirers Class for adults

**Protestant**

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School 11:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Devotion Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Prophetic Service 11 a.m. Children’s Church 6:00 p.m. Junior (Wdc, Bgsc) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study/Copyspace Hall Chapel

**Church of Christ**

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/small chapel 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Latter Day Saints**

Wednesdays 6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

**Jewish**

Friday 6:00 p.m. Shabbat (small chapel)

**Teen Programs**

For times, call 253-5183. School meetings, high school meetings, HS and JB bible studies, retreats, service projects, mission trips, Special Events Volunteer Training and Mentoring, Parent Support Groups

For information regarding diverse services, religious education or any other community religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-5218.

**Community Briefs**

**Mammograms**

The Branch Health Clinic heath/wellness 24/7 center will be conducting mammograms through an off-site van from Aug. 4 to 8. To schedule a service, please call community appointments at 253-3440 so that it can be arranged through your primary care doctor. Once the order is received by your primary care doctor, appointments will be made by Radiology.

**Vacation Bible School**

Friendship Trek 2008 August 4 – 8, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. The trek is open to ages 3 years (potty trained) to 8th grade. Come join the adventures with games, crafts, music and God’s Word. For more information on registering or volunteering, contact Station Chapel at 253-3571.

**“Robin Hood” Audition**

MCSS, Youth and Teen Programs July 28, 10 a.m. – noon, at Sakura Theater. Those auditioning should arrive at 9:30 a.m. and plan to stay for the full two hours. Some of the cast members will be asked to try for a rehearsal immediately following the auditions. Approximately 200 roles are available for local students. All students (ages entering 6th grade through 12th grade) are encouraged to audition. No advance preparation is necessary. Most students rehearse approximately 4-5 hours each day, Monday through Friday. Performances are scheduled for August 3, 4 p.m. (matinee show) and 7 p.m. (evening show) at the Sakura Theater. For more information, call MCSS, Youth / Teen Programs at 253-5183 or Service and Referral at 253-4414.

**“Robin Hood” is part of the Missoula Children’s Theatre’s unique international training program and is presented as MCSS healds by Children, Youth and Teen Branch.

**Useful medical needs**

Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. “I’m a lot closer to a degree in business doesn’t help if a Marine is already up on their household task. If you have any questions, please call the laboratory at 253-6047.

**Gospel Choir Members**

Rehearsing for Gospel Choir Members to sing at a Christmas concert at the Sofina Concert Hall, 1,200 seats is now taking place. Please call 900-4104-1504 (cell) for more information.

**Socialize & Relax**

Marine & Family Counseling is offering an Assisting and Managing Socials Rain workshop. This training is very timely as overall military suicide numbers are up and receiving a significant amount of attention from Congress and U.SMC leadership.

This training has been mentioned by CMC and other leaders during turnover and while Marine suicides are not showing an upward trend over the last few years, it is very timely training for our counselors, leaders and other professionals to assist in their professional development and support their continuedIustaining service to our Marines.

Dr. Werbel is a Behavioral Health Affairs Officer at MK, very well respected in this subject matter, and an engaging presenter.

The Assisting & Managing Socials Rain Training will be held July 21 at Club Buckner Teller’s dining room from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please register before July 7 by calling Counseling Services at 253-4318.

Workshop participants must register prior to the event.

Boy Scouts Troop 77

After 10 years of air station service, Boy Scouts Troop 77 is still accepting new members. Meetings are Mondays 6 to 7:30 p.m., at building 1111 (two buildings down from the Marine Memorial Chapel). For more information, call 253-3515.

**2008 Summer Reading Program**

Join “Catch the Reading Bug!” The 2008 Summer Reading Program began June 30. Registration for the Summer Reading Program began June 30. For more information, call the library at 253-3078. All programs are free of charge.

**Gull Scout Summer Camps**

Twinlight Camp: Going Green Crafts: July 14 – July 17, 12:10 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Gull Scout Hut.

Base Camp: July 28 – August 1, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Gull Scout Hut. For more information or to sign up, please call 253-2139.

**PTO needs volunteers**

MC. Perry Elementary School, Parents and Teachers Organization (PTO) needs volunteers to help through the summer to plan events and fund-raise for the school.

Please call 253-3327 for more information.

**Buck Gardens is giving back to this community**

For those looking to go on leave in the U.S. during the summer season, Buck Gardens and all of its affiliated parks are offering free admissions to all active duty military members plus three dependant family members (with ID card and ID card of their pets). SafeWorld in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio, Beach Gardens in Tampa Bay, Adventure Island and Water Country USA are all part of the Free admission.

**Local artist wanted**

This indoor range is currently searching for a local artist to draw and paint walls at the indoor range. For more information, call the indoor range at 253-5750.

**Sakura Theater**

Friday, July 11, 2008 7 p.m. Pleasure of Honor (PG-13) Premier 7 p.m. The Strangers (R) Premier

Saturday, July 12, 2008 12:00 p.m. The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) 4 p.m. The Strangers (R) 7 p.m. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 10 p.m. Made of Honor (PG-13)

Sunday, July 13, 2008 1 p.m. Kung Fu Panda (PG) Last Showing 4 p.m. Made of Honor (PG-13) Last Showing

General Admission: Ages 12+ are $2.50 Ages 6 - 11 are $1/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccswakuni.com or call 253-5291.

**Branch Health Clinic**

Lockwood said it wouldn’t make sense if they didn’t. “Think about this way, it’s in your Occupational Specialty school you had to go to class. That’s what ACE looks at. They evaluate the length of the class, instruction hours, content and then decide how many credits it’s worth.” Using a SMART transcript, Marines can use credits earned at basic training, combat training, Marine Corps Institute courses and MCSS school, which depending on their field could already place them those to free classes into their degree, 12-18 credits.

“I didn’t think so much of my training would count toward college credit,” said Lance Cpl. Joshua J. Robey, a data networking specialist with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. “I’m a lot closer to my degree than I thought. On one page alone, I had almost 30 credits. That’s 10 classes.”

Marines in leadership positions benefit from the program more than other Marines. Leadership course, such as Corporal’s Course and the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy, can earn up to four credits a piece. Special billets, such as Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor, can bring service members even closer to a degree.

“In the civilian world, leadership is translated to management,” Lockwood said. “Depending on how many credits those courses are worth, they could already be launching you toward a degree in business.”

Lockwood also said degree selection is essential to maximizing a SMART transcript. Having 20 credits toward a degree in business doesn’t help if a Marine wants a degree in computer science.

Marines who decide to pursue a degree in their field get the most out of their transcripts. For striving for an associate’s degree, military and political studies is a faster route given the nature of military courses. But, there is no guarantee a school will take all the credits on a SMART transcript.

“The SMART is just a recommendation,” Lockwood said. “Colleges or universities don’t have to take it, but the schools we deal with, (such as Hawaii Pacific University), do a good job of taking as many credits as possible.”

Lockwood suggests not attending a school that does not take SMART credit. If debating what school to go to, his suggestion is to request an unofficial evaluation of all credits and choose the school that takes the most SMART credit.

“Maximize the use of your credit. Squander out as much as you can,” he said. “Which would you rather prefer. A school that puts you a semester ahead or one that makes you start from scratch?”

For more information, service members can visit the SMART Web site at https://SMARTsacm.net.
Packing your student off to college? TRICARE goes to school too

When it’s time for your child to go to college, you’ll face many decisions as a family. Continued health care coverage is one of them.

TRICARE covers your eligible student until he or she turns 23 as long as they attend school full-time. One decision you will have to make is determining which TRICARE option will work best for your family.

Although you and your family may be enrolled in TRICARE Pacific Region, this may not be the best choice for your college-bound son or daughter. If your student’s college or university is located in an area where TRICARE Prime is offered, you can transfer their Prime enrollment.

It is not necessary to have all family members enrolled in the same region. To assist in determining if there is a provider network in the area where the college is located, simply follow the instructions located at http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Medical/FindingAPrivateProvider. Then proceed to http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/forms to download enrollment forms. Rattieres must keep in mind that Prime is not an OCCUS option, it may be available in the region where your child will reside.

However, there is an enrollment fee for Prime for residents and their family members.

Be sure your student understands the rules in the new TRICARE region pertaining to pre-authorization for care. Failure to abide by these rules could result in Point of Service charges.

When traveling to the new region, your child is covered by TRICARE Pacific Region traveling procedures for emergency and urgent care.

Basic care should be accomplished after enrollment at the new region.

TRICARE Prime is not available where your student will be living. TRICARE Standard may be the option of choice.

With TRICARE Standard there is no enrollment required but your child will need to be disenrolled from TRICARE Pacific Region to switch to TRICARE Standard. This is a fee-for-service option that allows you to see any TRICARE authorized provider they choose. You will be responsible for all deductibles and copays.

You can submit a request via e-mail at iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 218.

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classified link on the station Web site and open an advertisement request form. Submit the form via e-mail to resident postmasters and/or at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 218.

Classifieds

Crisp Toffee Bars, Chocolate Pudding w/ Gratin, Cauliflower Combo, Gravy, Cheese Biscuits, Devils Food Cake Gumbo, Southern Style Green Beans, Chicken

SPECIALTY BAR: BBQ Coconut Cake Sweet Potato Pie, Whipped Topping, Hot Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, (Hamburger) Fried Rice, Tomato Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom


NEWS

new TRICARE region pertaining to pre-authorization

Retirees should keep in mind that although Prime is the option of choice.

TRICARE covers your eligible student until he or she turns 23 as long as they attend school full-time.

When your child returns during the summer you may transfer their enrollment back to your home region. There is no charge and no restrictions on the number of times an active duty family member can transfer enrollment to a different region. Active duty family members are allowed one transfer from and one transfer back to the original region within a twelve-month period.

For more information about transferring enrollment, please visit our Web site at http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/ or contact your health benefits advisor at the TRICARE Service Center 253-3072.

Be ready for real life...
Col. Michael A. O’Halloran, station commanding officer, joins other privileged guests in the first lines at the Strike Zone here during its opening-day celebration, July 4. Residents poured inside the multi-million-dollar facility after a ribbon-cutting ceremony and were met with free games, snacks and ice cream while they explored its several attractions. After more than a year of construction and five years of planning, the complex offers 20 lanes for bowlers, “The 11th Frame,” a full-service bar, billiards, slot machines, A&W and Pizza Hut restaurants and an indoor children’s playscape. Mark Johnson, Strike Zone general manager boasts, “There’s something out here for everyone. This is the new place to come and have a great time.”

Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Lane traffic at the station’s new state-of-the-art bowling facility, “The Strike Zone,” has been steadily increasing since its opening-day July 4. In just a few short days, anyone from north-side regulars to Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force visitors has graced the 20-lane, 27,000-square-foot behemoth.

But as many have found, the complex is more than a place to test your game under an impressive show of lights. Finally, there’s now a place that all crowds living on the north side of the air station can call their own.

“This is the new place to be if you’re on north side,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Chaco, Fleet Readiness Center West aviation ordnanceman, while finishing a game with his co-workers Tuesday night. “Everyone is relaxed here. The bar is nice and so is the food, but it’s close to everyone’s home, so it’s more comfortable than anything.”

Before the Strike Zone opened its doors to the station, residents living in the area had to search for other Marine Corps Community Services-entertainment, the closest being the Hornet’s Nest and the Sakura Theater.

The newest facility boasts a night of entertainment, friendly competition and supper all within walking distance of family housing and the barracks.

“This place is going to keep folks from spending every night and dollar they have here at the bar and club,” said Chaco. “It’s a safe alternative. When they’re done having fun, it’s an easy trip back the house to call it a night.”

But what keeps families coming back? Chief Warrant Officer Mary Gaddis, a postal officer and homemaker, will tell you it’s the air conditioning.

“My son has been here every single day since the place opened last week,” she said. “There’s a mix of everything here, but most of all it’s a comfy place to take the kids any night of the week.”

The price on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for one bowler is $1.75. In the evenings and weekends, bowlers will pay $2.25 for each game.

According to Steve M. Larrabee, Strike Zone bowling manager, programs are in the works for the year-round competition at the new facility. As early as the end of July, managers at the bowling center are planning to start a United States Bowling Congress Friendship League, midnight bowling on Saturday evenings and “Cosmic Bowling,” a new game for teams and families with smoke and a laser-light show.

For more information about hours and schedules at the Strike Zone, call 253-3495.

A new home for local legends

New bowling center gets station out of the house, into lanes

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Gunnery Sgt. Gerardo Acevedo and his son, Daniel, celebrate their game in the later hours of the evening at the Strike Zone, the air station’s new hot spot for service members and families. After its doors swung open just a week ago, the new facility has seen visitors from all walks of the air station.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez