

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Station's education programs, opportunities outlined

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Active duty service members are entitled to a variety of different education and learning programs to better prepare them for success, both during and after their military service.

The Education Services Office here has all the information a service member needs about financial aid, testing, education planning and how to enroll in a college course.

"Our main mission is to provide counseling and college degree planning," said Gerald J. Gibbons, the station's education officer. "Starting from scratch, people need to know what they need in order to get their degree."

The first step is accounting for the college credit a service member has already earned through recruit training and military occupational specialty training, said Gibbons.

The American Council on Education validates certain aspects of military training as recommended college credit in a format that is widely accepted by colleges and universities.

"To see what kind of credits you've earned through your training, you can visit www.smart.navy.mil or stop by the education office at Building 411 and ask for your SMART transcript," said Gibbons.

"The next step is choosing which major or associates degree you'd like to pursue," he said.

Gibbons will sit down with individual service members and map out their prospective course of study, and make

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Walk reflects on lives lost

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines, sailors and civilians came together in front of Building 1 here Sept. 11 for the third-annual freedom walk.

The freedom-walk tradition has occurred in cities across the United States since 2005.

According to an America Supports You Freedom Walk press release, "the America Supports You Freedom Walk is a national tradition that calls on people to reflect on the lives lost on September 11, 2001, remember those who responded, honor our veterans past and present, and renew our commitment to freedom and the values of our country."

Although there are similarities between every freedom walk, each walk is ultimately tailored by its coordinators and naturally influenced by its location

Iwakuni's walk began at Building 1 and ended at the chapel.

"We walk today to celebrate those who sacrificed, we sing today to celebrate those sacrifices, and we celebrate those who have given everything," said Lt. j.g. Robert Mills, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron chaplain.

All in attendance stood in silence as morning colors was performed with Marines hoisting the American flag and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force service members raising the Japanese flag.

Lt. Col. Tray Ardesse spoke and the walk commenced.

Once all the walkers were situated in the chapel, the ceremony began with the opening verse of the Marines' Hymn.

Speaker Capt. Christopher Wade reminded all who attended

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Dedication ceremony spectators walk through the Healing Field flag display near the Pentagon Memorial prior to the event Sept. 11. The flag display was sponsored by the nonprofit Healing Field Foundation. The almost 3,000 flags represent those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001. Photo by Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carfrey

Pentagon Memorial unveiled

SGT. CLINTON FIRSTBROOK
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON — The names of all 184 victims who perished at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, were read aloud yesterday during the official Pentagon Memorial dedication ceremony.

The memorial, on a two-acre plot with dozens of maple saplings, consists of 184 illuminated benches, each engraved with a victim's name and arranged north to south from oldest to youngest, respectively.

"I lost my younger brother Dave here seven years ago," said James J. Laychak,

Pentagon Memorial Fund chairman. "When I see the reflected sunshine climb up the sides of the memorial units, I see the beauty of life. I hope the Pentagon Memorial will provide a sense of closure and comfort to all those who are still in

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN DENIS COX
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

I walked into the 1st Regimental Combat Team Command Center and saw it right away. A giant sign posted so that people would have to go out of their way to miss it. It read "What do I know and who needs to know it?" It made an impact on me and has stuck with me even today.

I've found that I need information on two levels. First of all, I need to know what's going on in the command. We need to know what the deployment schedule is like; we need to know when important events are taking place and when we are expected to be there. How

can I be expected to attend the Marine Corps Ball unless I'm told just when that will be?

Secondly, I need to know everyday living information like the phone number of the dental clinic so I can make an appointment to have my teeth cleaned. I know someone has to have that phone number, I just don't know who to call to get it if you know what I mean.

By the way, did you hear about the new promotion the exchange has called "Santa Bucks?" For every \$10 you purchase in July, you get \$1 as a coupon for purchase between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Too bad this information is getting to you two months late. I guess having the information is one thing but

getting that information out in a timely manner is a whole other matter.

It has been said that knowledge is power. Just in case you're interested, I hate that kind of maxim. It implies that I have inside information and you don't and that makes me a powerful person. That kind of information is impotent unless one is willing to share it, only then can it become powerful.

I'm not asking everyone to gossip; on the contrary, I'm asking everyone to share important information that others need to know in a timely manner. Not personal information but public or organizational information that allows the whole community to take part. What do you know and who needs to know it?

Restricted reporting option for domestic violence victims

Shermona M. Hart
VICTIM ADVOCATE

Domestic violence often goes unreported. In the military community, victims of domestic abuse are often worried that reporting will have negative disciplinary effects on military careers, cause financial or other problems for the family, and increase tension within the household. These and other worries can result in deterring victims from seeking needed medical and psychological care and counseling, electing instead to allow such incidents to go unreported.

In order to address these competing interests, adult victims of domestic abuse incidents will now have two reporting options: unrestricted reporting and restricted reporting.

Unrestricted Reporting: Victims of domestic abuse who want to pursue an official investigation of an incident should use current reporting channels, such as the offender's chain of command, Family Advocacy Program (FAP), or law enforcement. Upon notification of a reported domestic abuse incident, victim advocacy services and FAP clinical services will be offered to the victims.

Restricted Reporting: Restricted reporting allows an adult victim of domestic abuse to disclose the details of his or her abuses to specifically identified individuals (victim advocates and healthcare providers) and receive medical treatment and victim advocacy services without requiring that notice be provided to the alleged offender's commander or law enforcement. To be a protected disclosure, the report must

be made to a medical provider, a victim advocate, or family advocacy personnel.

Restricted reporting is intended to give adult victims additional recovery time, information and support services, and other assistance and encouragement in making informed decisions about reporting the domestic abuse incident to the appropriate commanders and possibly participating in a criminal investigation. Victims who make restricted reports will have the opportunity to change those reports to unrestricted in the future, and thereby involve command and other authorities who may then hold the offender accountable for his or her actions.

It is important to note that this policy change has no effect on reports involving abuse of minor children. Such incidents will be referred as unrestricted reports, and commanders may dispose of such reports as disciplinary or criminal matters.

While the victim's decision to make an unrestricted report about the incident is a crucial step toward holding the offender accountable following a domestic abuse incident, failure to take action on those reports can have potential serious consequences for the safety and welfare of the victim and other family members.

When domestic abuse is reported to the military and or other civilian authorities that fail to take appropriate action, the abuse may recur and escalate.

If you would like more information on domestic violence or counseling services in general, please contact Marine & Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

911 FROM PAGE 1

... The memorial represents what great things can happen when we all work together to create something good."

More than 15,000 people, including families and friends of the fallen, filled the Pentagon south parking lot to remember their loved ones and colleagues on the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attack.

During the dedication, several military and government leaders told how the memorial in the Pentagon's shadow will stand as a symbol of a nation's undying memory,

love and resolve.

"Parents will come here to remember children who boarded Flight 77 for a field trip and never emerged from the wreckage," President George W. Bush said. "Husbands and wives will come here to remember spouses who left for work one morning and never returned home. People from across our nation will come here to remember friends and loved ones who never had the chance to say goodbye. A memorial can never replace what those of you mourning a loved one have lost ... We pray that you will find strength in knowing our nation will always grieve with you."

Construction workers broke ground on the memorial June 15, 2006, almost five years after American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m., the moment when stone became dust, steel became shrapnel — where flames, smoke and destruction stole the lives of 184 men, women and children, said former Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

"This memorial tells a story of their last terrible moments on this Earth," Rumsfeld said. "When a symbol of America's strength was scarred. Today we renew our vows to never forget how this long struggle began and to never forget those who fell first."

MAP FROM PAGE 1

recommendations for specific college programs they should consider.

The University of Maryland, Central Texas College, and University of Phoenix offer a wide range of degree and certificate programs available for service members to choose from, said Gibbons.

Upon enrollment in a program, active duty service members are entitled to make use of their tuition assistance.

Tuition assistance (TA) is available to all active duty service members at 100 percent of cost of tuition for an annual maximum of \$4,500 per fiscal year.

"It makes sense to use your tuition assistance while you have it since it's renewed every year while you're on active duty," said Cinda C. Quattrini, Overseas Military Services Coordinator.

Service members who exceeds the maximum amount offered by tuition assistance can tap into their G.I. Bill so long as they've been on active duty for 24 months, Quattrini added.

"However, you can start using TA at any point," she said.

Lance Cpl. Jose A. Ordaz, a cryogenics equipment operator here, is currently using tuition assistance while taking American History and English Composition through Central Texas College.

"I came into the Marine Corps right out of high school and didn't have any college experience," said Ordaz. "Without the Marine Corps I'd probably be working two jobs just to afford school."

"It can be a little difficult at times to be taking college

courses on top of work when you come back tired and just want to lay down and relax," said Ordaz. "But it's worth it, especially knowing I'm that much closer to achieving my goal of having at least an associate's degree before I get out of the Marine Corps."

The station also offers education opportunities for service members who wish to stay in the Marine Corps longer and perhaps move into a different job field.

The Military Academic Skills Program helps service members improve their reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

"It is designed to dramatically improve your ASVAB score," said Gibbons.

Another education opportunity available to service members here is the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support or DANTES.

DANTES offers more than 30 certification examinations for professional certification, such as the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and the Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologists (LCCST).

Other examinations offered through DANTES include the General Education Development (GED) and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP).

Whether service members desire to take college classes to better prepare for their future outside the military, or simply brush up on common skills to pursue a different career path, the education office can help guide service members toward success.

A college fair will be held at the Crossroads Mall Monday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to offer more information regarding education opportunities available on the station.



Cody Pilgram, 8, places an American flag into the gravel at the Pentagon Memorial Sept. 11 while his sister, Kayla, 10, watches. Cody and Kayla are natives of St. Louis. Photo by Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carfrey

WALK FROM PAGE 1

that although the attacks are long over, the effects are still felt today.

As Wade noted, Sept. 11 is the ultimate cause of the Long War that continues to be fought every day.

"You all remember where you were — even if you were in the fifth and sixth grade like some of my Marines," said Wade.

At 8:46 a.m. a bell was struck representing the moment the first plane impacted, and a moment of silence was held. After the ceremony, refreshments were provided outside the chapel to bring people together in a celebration of camaraderie, said Mills. Underneath the exterior, the freedom walk serves not only as a reminder, but as a guide for the future.

"This is a ceremony to remember those sacrifices and to point us forward in future service," said Mills.

Each year the tradition grows with new walks springing up in cities across the globe.

"255 ASY Freedom Walks took place in every state in the nation, as well as in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Italy, Guam, Japan, Kuwait and Canada," according to the ASY Freedom Walk press release.

As with any of the freedom walks occurring in new locations, the original walk also required someone wishing to honor those who sacrificed.

"The tradition was born when Pentagon employees, seeking a way to honor the victims of the attack on the Pentagon and their families, and pay tribute to those who responded to that attack as well as those who serve, organized a walk from the Pentagon to the National Mall," according to the ASY Freedom Walk press release.

This year the ASY Freedom Walk began at the Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery and concluded at the Pentagon's south parking lot.



Station Marines, sailors and civilians participate in the Freedom Walk here Sept. 11. The freedom-walk tradition has occurred in cities across the world since 2005. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Online
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"Eat your 80s" - A live 1-hour
radio show that features the best of 80's music. Noon to 1 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, on Power 1575.



Michael K. Gingles watches as Oshima Island mayor, Tomio Nakamoto takes a particular liking to an Iwakuni Motorcycle Club member's bike featuring a painted image of a samurai warrior. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

Station motorcycle club donates funds to Iwakuni, Oshima Island



Michael K. Gingles, the president of the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club, hands Yoshiniko Fukuda, the mayor of Iwakuni, a check for 100,000 yen. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

“This is our way as Americans to make a bond with the Japanese community. We’ve kept none of the money for ourselves; instead we’re giving it all back to the community.”

Michael K. Gingles
Iwakuni Motorcycle Club President

Oshima Island mayor, Tomio Nakamoto receives a check for 200,000 yen from Michael K. Gingles, president of the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete



LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Members of the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club rode through Oshima and Iwakuni Sept. 12 to meet with city officials, and to donate money they earned during the 2008 Oshima Bike Meeting held April 12-13.

“This is our way as Americans to make a bond with the Japanese community,” said Michael K. Gingles, Iwakuni Motorcycle Club president. “We’ve kept none of the money for ourselves; instead we’re giving it all back to the community.”

The club first visited Tomio Nakamoto, the mayor of Oshima Island. Gingles professed to Nakamoto the love he and his club have for Oshima Island. He mentioned how the island’s pristine beaches and palm tree lined streets remind the riders of beaches back in the states.

After talking with Nakamoto and pleading for more ways in which he and his club could help the community, Gingles stood up to hand the mayor a cash wise check for 200,000 yen.

The mayor was very grateful and followed the riders back to their bikes.

Nakamoto took a special delight in one of the member’s bikes which featured a painted image of a samurai warrior.

After saying farewell to Nakamoto, the riders took to their saddles and headed toward Iwakuni to meet with Yoshiniko Fukuda, Iwakuni’s mayor.

Fukuda entered the room with a warm smile and greeted all of the riders.

After exchanging hand shakes and smiles, Gingles told Iwakuni’s mayor how the motorcycle club’s number one mission is to foster a good relationship between Iwakuni, the Japanese community as a whole and the base.

“Is there anything else we could do to help out the community?” Gingles asked. “As a club, we are willing to do anything.” Fukuda appreciated Gingle’s offer and did mention how the club could further help the community by helping to clean Iwakuni’s beaches.

“We would love to help,” Gingles said eagerly. “We’ll go over this at our next meeting and make sure it happens.”

Gingles then invited Iwakuni’s mayor to take part in one of the club’s rallies, or to at least go riding with them sometime.

“Personally, I prefer cars, but I do have a 50 CC scooter that I could ride,” Fukuda said laughing.

“You don’t have to have a Harley to ride with us,” responded Gingles. “In fact, we don’t care what anyone rides; anyone is still welcome to go riding with us.”

After sharing more laughs, Gingles thanked the mayor for his time and then handed him a cash wise check for 100,000 yen.

“This is the first year we’ve shared a piece of our earnings with the Iwakuni community,” said Hank L. Groomes, Iwakuni Bike Club member. “It’s great to see our club grow and do more things for the Japanese community.”

“I feel they really appreciated the money we presented to both of them,” said Gingles. “My hopes are that more people could ride with us so we can collect more money and make even bigger donations.”

AFTER ACTION

Combat Assault Company finishes Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2008

LANCE CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
OKINAWA MARINE

USS TORTUGA, South China Sea (September 12, 2008) — After a three-month deployment to Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, Brunei and Singapore, the Marines and sailors of Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, may never quite be the same.

Returning to Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, with sea bags full of souvenirs and minds full of memories of new experiences, the 43 Marines and sailors made their final stop on Okinawa last week, where they had time to look back on their deployment as part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2008.

CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and Southeast Asia nations designed to enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

“This deployment is one of a kind in the Marine Corps,” said 1st Lt. Kyle Johnson, the platoon commander of CAC. The deployment changed the way he looks at the jungle, foreign cultures, militaries and his own military heritage.

Before the platoon-sized element left Okinawa May 20 aboard the USS Tortuga with augments from Okinawa-based units, Maj. Gen. Robert B. Neller, commanding general of 3rd Marine Division, encouraged each Marine to make the most of the experience.

“You are a soldier of the sea. You are a Marine, and as a Marine you are going back to your roots,” he said.

Since that day, CAC has traveled nearly 11,000 nautical miles experiencing in-depth the ship life that Neller spoke of.

Although it was far from what he expected, Cpl. Andrew Carlson, a rifleman with CAC, admitted his experience was interesting and unique.

“Some things took some getting used to, but the opportunity to experience other cultures made the trip worthwhile,” he said.

CARAT stopped to conduct one-week military exercises and cultural exchanges in each country from the end of May through August.

During the exchanges, the unit, primarily made up of amphibious assault vehicle crewmen, combat engineers and infantry Marines, provided numerous classes to their foreign counterparts.

The classes covered weapons breakdown, vehicle checkpoints, patrolling and escalation of force. Medical classes were also taught by CAC corpsmen including combat lifesaving steps, casualty evacuation procedures and administering intravenous fluids.

These were all areas where the CAC Marines and sailors had plenty of experience, said Johnson. More than 80 percent of the unit has been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or both, he said.

There were a few challenges along the way to include overcoming language barriers in



Lance Cpl. Walter H. Schnapp, a rifleman with Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, takes cover in a ditch July 8 alongside his fire team and Malaysian Army Rangers during CARAT 2008. Photos by Lance Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt

the many countries visited.

During their first experience in the Philippines, the Marines and sailors learned the hands-on approach was the most effective teaching method, said Lance Cpl. John Jones, a rifleman with CAC.

“When going through the classes, it was hard to convey ideas,” he said, “but when we worked side-by-side through practical application, they understood.”

The Marines and sailors maintained this training approach throughout the deployment.

The training was not all one sided, however. Host countries trained the Marines and sailors in jungle warfare to include jungle patrolling, defense, evasion techniques and basic jungle survival.

“The jungle is neutral,” said the Malaysian Deputy Inspecting General of the Army, Colonel Doan S. Lock. “The jungle doesn’t favor one side over the other — it favors the fighting force that understands its nature best,” he said.

Operating in a tropical climate, far different from that of Iraq and Afghanistan, provided a fresh perspective for the Marines and sailors.

“It made me realize that jungle warfare is a lot harder than I could have expected,” Carlson said, “I have a newfound respect for those who fought in Vietnam and other jungle engagements.”

The bilateral exercises conducted tested the cooperative militaries’ teamwork and communication and promoted camaraderie in many different scenarios.

During the cooperative training, professionalism was constant and the mood normally serious. However, one constant throughout the exercise was debriefings, when military members got a chance to wash off their camouflage paint and share stories.

“Our troops face some of the same hardships as their troops and this shared understanding transcends many of the cultural and language barriers that might be present,” Johnson said, “We never really knew how much we had in common until we found ourselves laughing at the same jokes.”

Of the Marines and sailors who participated in CARAT 2008, all have a different story. But nearly all of them agree that it was an eye-opening experience and they will not soon forget their foreign friends — a feeling that is shared by their friends across the Pacific.



Lance Cpl. Walter H. Schnapp, a rifleman with Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, takes cover in a ditch July 8 alongside his fire team and Malaysian Army Rangers during CARAT 2008. Photos by Lance Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS



The Hello Kitty parade float grabs the attention of the crowd during the Halloween character parade at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka Sept. 13. More than an hour before the parade began the streets throughout the park began to fill with the park's guests anxiously awaiting the parade. The parade featured characters from Sesame Street, The Wizard of Oz, Snoopy and Hello Kitty. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



A Japanese family poses with Dorothy and the Cowardly Lion from the park's special version of the Tony Award winning musical 'Wicked' at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka Sept. 13. Many characters from the park's attractions, such as the Sesame Street 4-D movie and Snoopy studios, were available throughout the day for photo opportunities. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



The entrance way to Universal Studios Japan rises out of the Earth and into the sky like a giant monolith on a sultry Sept. 13 in Osaka. Right beyond the monstrous gateway lies the ticket booths swelling with anxious patrons wishing to enter the magical theme park and experience its wonders. Just beyond the ticket booths, the rollercoaster arch of Hollywood Dream: The Ride can be seen, beckoning the adventurous rider to climb aboard and experience a thrill not soon forgotten. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



Theme park wow's service members

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"Get Back" by The Beatles blares from the headrest as the rollercoaster car approaches the apex of the 144-foot drop — the body clenches up and for the less than 10 second drop it's like free-fall — welcome to Hollywood Dream: The Ride at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka.

Marine Corps Community Services sponsored a trip to the theme park Saturday for the meager travel fee of \$20 — a steal when considering toll and gas prices or taking the shinkansen.

The park has been divided into nine thematic areas containing various types of attractions including a variety of rides and shows.

The show attractions and most of the rides elaborate on Universal Studios productions and, as expected, are dubbed in Japanese without any English subtitles.

But, the ride attractions still generate enjoyment from the sheer excitement of being tossed around rag-doll style in a coaster and the shows can be enjoyed for their impressive special effects.

"The WaterWorld show was the most entertaining," said Andrew Levy and Trevor Young. "It had the most action and you didn't have to understand what they were saying."

Although dialogue may enhance the experience, the dazzling effects, usually enhanced by 3-D glasses, are enough to keep the senses tantalized and, with little or no background information, the big picture can be inferred.

As expected from any theme park, it does get very busy as the day progresses, and the lines become very long — even some of the more unique concessions, such as the turkey leg stand in Jurassic Park, have a swelling line later in the day.

To combat wait times, the park has several options for its guests.

"I recommend the Universal Express Pass because you can skip all the hour long lines at the rides," said Young.

The express pass is offered in a four-pass, at \$34, or seven-pass, at \$54, booklet and each booklet permits line skipping on certain rides. If the passes seem too steep when added to the \$58 park entrance fee, a number of the attractions have a singles line.

The singles line generally cuts the wait time in half or more by allowing guests to fill-in single seats on rides that have a singles line.

Besides the park itself, there are points of interest located right outside the main gate.

"Before you go in, take a hard left, go out the gate and go to the Hard Rock," said Young.

Both Young and Levy said the trip was much easier and cheaper to make with the Single Marine Program.

The Sasebo Navy base and Tokyo fun trips are coming up Oct. 19 and 23 respectively.

"Our events go to places Marines normally can't go," said Daniel Sanner, the SMP vice-president.

For questions or information about upcoming Marine Corps Community Services' trips, check out the calendar at the MCCC Web site or call the Hornet's Nest directly at 253-3585.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



Marines assault Taliban stronghold

Lance Cpl. Ray Alvarado, a vehicle commander assigned to Weapons Company, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and a Fillmore, Calif., native, fires a Javelin missile at enemy targets during an assault on a Taliban-held compound Aug. 28. Photo by Lance Cpl. Gene Allen Ainsworth III

CPL. JAMES M. MERCURE
BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan —

U.S. Marines along with coalition forces carried out an assault on a Taliban-held compound in Now Zad, Afghanistan, Aug. 28.

The accomplishments of the assault, was the seizure of enemy ordnance and weapons, materials used to make IEDs (improvised explosive devices), and the destruction of several enemy vehicles, buildings and fighting positions. The Marines and sailors of Company F, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and coalition forces are exploiting the enemy any way they can

"Our overall mission here is to degrade the enemies' ability to operate in Now Zad," said Capt. Ross Schellhaas, Company F commander and Meridian, Idaho native. "During this assault, we pushed far beyond our objective. We found and took several of the enemies'

weapons, which takes away their ability to use them against us.

"Whenever we get to an assault position, we're already receiving fire and the Marines go right to the sound of the guns — no hesitation," Capt. Schellhaas explained.

During the assault, Company F Marines had the additional support of the task force's Combined Anti-Armor Team, which supported the operation with additional heavy firepower.

"Our main goal was to help Company F clear their objective by killing as many enemy fighters as possible," said Maj. Urbano Cruz, Weapons Company commander and Palm Beach, Fla., native. "The thing that CAAT brings to the fight is a sizable force. We're the big guns of the battalion, and the Taliban see that and think twice before attacking."

To combat IED threats, TF 2/7's Combat Engineer Platoon are called forward to breach the enemy's walls with explosives so the Fox Company Marines can move forward to their objective.

"We can always get the Marines through the door, or through the wall," said Sgt. David J. Lang, a combat engineer squad leader and Port Orchard, Wash., native. "The infantry guys will always have a way in or a way out with us around."

"In the few months we've been out here, the combat engineers have found approximately 120 possible IEDs while out on missions," Lang said.

Company F Marines and sailors are relentless in the pursuit of ridding the area of its Taliban presence. As TF 27 continues to conduct counterinsurgency operations throughout the Helmand and Farah provinces, Company F is certainly making a name for itself by dominating the enemy with superior firepower and maneuver.

"After months of sustained combat, it's a testament to the Marines' strength, endurance and character that they keep doing the little things right," said 1st Lt. Arthur E. Karell, 3rd Platoon commander and Arlington, Va., native.



Lance Cpl. Bryan E. McDonald III, a designated marksman assigned to third platoon, Company F, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and a Denton, Texas native, searches for enemy fighters during the initial assault of a Taliban-held compound, Aug. 28. Photo by Cpl. James M. Mercure



Sergeant David J. Lang, a combat engineer assigned to Company F, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and a Port Orchard, Wash., native, kicks a door in to clear a room during an assault on a Taliban-held compound, Aug. 28. Photo by Cpl. James M. Mercure

Community Briefs

Japanese Language Course

The 2008 fall Japanese language course will run every Tuesday, 7 – 9 p.m. from Sept. 30 to Dec. 16 at Iwakuni Civic Hall (Shimin Kaikan). Only 40 seats are available on a first come, first served basis. 500 yen per term is charged for enrollment. To take the class, sign up in advance at the Public Affairs Office, Room 216, Bldg. 1. For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

Iwakuni Toastmasters

Iwakuni Toastmasters is offering evening and lunchtime meetings. Evening meetings are held every second Wednesday of each month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Civilian Human Resources Office training room in Building

1. Lunchtime meetings are held every fourth Friday of each month from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Facilities training room on the second floor of Building 360. For more information, call 253-3335.

Officers Spouses Club Kickoff

Today, 5 p.m. at Club Iwakuni Officer's Club (Indian Joe's Lounge). Hawaiian Luau attire encouraged, but not mandatory. For more information, call 253-2896.

Boys & Girls Club Day for Kids

Sept. 20, noon – 4 p.m. at Crossroads Amphitheatre and Roadway between outdoor pool and park. Free of admission. Entertainment, interactive information and food. All authorized personnel, guests, and

Japanese guests are invited. For more information, contact Youth and Teen Center at 253-5549 or 4803.

Ball Gown Exchange

Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the community room, Bldg. 1209. Raffles, dresses, shoes, and more! Donations needed. Donate last years ball gown by Sept. 20 and receive credit toward purchase of new gown. For more information, call 253-2866, 090-9109-8122 (cell), or e-mail to Hutchwife08@yahoo.com.

College Fair

Monday, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Crossroads Mall Kiosk Area. There will be free sodas and snacks, degree counseling, new GI bill information, financial aid information, and new class schedule posted. For more information, contact Education Center at 253-4802.

Sophie's Antique Furniture Sale

Sept. 27, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sept. 28, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at M.C. Perry School Cafeteria. Home delivery will be available. 1-year home layaway interest free. Proceeds to benefit the American Red Cross Community and volunteer programs on MCAS Iwakuni. Volunteers for the sale are also needed on Sept. 26 from 5 – 9 p.m., Sept. 27, 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Sept. 28, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, contact American Red Cross at 253-4525.

Rosh Hashanah Service

Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m. and Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. at Station Chapel, Bldg. 1100. For more information, contact Station's Chapel at 253-3371.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival is quickly approaching on Oct. 3 and M. C. Perry Elementary PTO is planning lots of fun & activities for your entire family! If you would like to help, please call 253-2180.

223rd Navy Birthday Ball

Oct. 10, at Club Iwakuni Ballroom, social hour 5 – 6 p.m., ceremony, dinner, dancing 6 p.m. – 1 a.m. Attire: Dress blue uniform, appropriate civilian attire. Ticket is on sale at SNCO cash cage through October 3. E6 and below, and their guests are \$30. E7 and above, their guests, and civilians are \$45. For more information, call 253-3302, 253-6647, or Club Iwakuni at 253-5416.

Educator's Day

Oct. 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., all MCAS community members are welcome to attend this event. If you have information or a class that you would like to share with the community, please fill out the application posted at <http://mcperryhs.pac.dodea.edu/> and return it by the posted deadline. For more information, contact M. C. Perry High School at 253-5524.

Fine Arts Exhibit Program

Begin creating artwork. As a participant in the National Fine Arts Exhibit program, the Youth & Teens Center may submit artwork in four age divisions and 10 categories, including watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylic and

collage. Selected artwork will be screened at the local level and a limited number will be sent for the regional and national levels. Start today. Local exhibit will be held December 2008. For more information, contact Youth and Teen Center at 253-5549 or 4803.

Mothers of Preschoolers

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meet every first and third Thursday, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. through May 2009 at Yujo Hall, Marine Memorial Chapel. For more information, call 253-2885 or 2290.

MBA program

We are bringing the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program onsite right here! Don't miss out.

- 12 classes
- Classes meet once a week
- Each class is six weeks long
- More than half off our tuition
- Instructors are experts in their fields
- Earn your prestigious degree in 18 months

For more information, contact Asia/Pacific office of University of Phoenix, at DSN: 252-3044 (Sasebo), or e-mail to bormann@phoenix.edu. URL: <http://upxnewsroom.com/>

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month for the American Red Cross. You can be "Red Cross ready." For emergencies follow three simple steps:

1. Get a kit
2. Make a plan
3. Be informed

For more information, logon to <http://www.redcross.org/beredcrossready>.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tuesday - Friday 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Devine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
11 a.m. Children's Church
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6 p.m. Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

Jewish

Friday 6 p.m. Shabbat (small chapel)

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 or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-5218.

Sakura Theater

Friday, Sept. 19, 2008

7 p.m. Swing Vote (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Step Brothers (R)

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008

1 p.m. Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G)
Last Showing
4 p.m. Space Chimps (PG)
7 p.m. X-Files: I want to Believe (PG-13)
10 p.m. Swing Vote (PG-13)

Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008

1 p.m. Space Chimps (PG)
4 p.m. Swing Vote (PG-13)
7 p.m. Mamma Mia (PG-13)

Monday, Sept. 22, 2008

7 p.m. The Dark Knight (PG-13)

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

7 p.m. Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Last Showing

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008

7 p.m. Hell Boy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) Last Showing

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008

7 p.m. Mamma Mia (PG-13)

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

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

Automobiles

2001 Harley Davidson Softail Deuce

\$16,000. American made model from new car sales with less than 10k miles. Comes with owner's manual and parts manual and all original parts and some parts that haven't been installed yet. EZ lift, 2 helmets and a small to medium leather jacket. Custom Vintage solo and rear seat with backrest and fender bib, luggage rack, Boss saddlebags 34CS1 with the phantom bracket mounting system and the tail light relocation kit, fork brace and Vance & Hines 2 into 1 exhaust. New battery, new front and rear tire and one year JCI remaining. This bike has been kept inside storage since purchase, has little to no rust and has never been laid down. Motor oil/filter and transmission oil gets replaced every 6 months whether it needs it or not. For more information, call 253-6147 (work) or 32-2267 (home).

Mess Hall Schedule

MONDAY

Cream of Broccoli Soup, French Onion Soup Baked Chicken and Rice, Yakimiku (Steak and vegetables), Steamed Rice, Lyonnaise Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Chicken Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Chocolate Cream Pie, Whipped Topping, Banana Cake with Butter Cream Frosting
SPECIALTY BAR: PASTA BAR

TUESDAY

Minestrone Soup, Tomato Soup, Pork Ham Roast, Shrimp Scampi, Potatoes Au Gratin, Steamed Rice, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Combo, Cheese Biscuits, Brownies, Spice Cake with Butter cream Frosting, Coconut Cream Pie
SPECIALTY BAR: TACO BAR

WEDNESDAY

Chicken and Rice Soup, Cream of Broccoli, Chili Mac, Grilled Cheese, Tempura Fried Fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Oven Glo Potatoes, Broccoli Polonaise, Peas and Mushrooms, Dinner Rolls, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Florida Lemon Cake, Lemon Butter Cream Frosting, Blueberry Pie
SPECIALTY BAR: BBQ

THURSDAY

Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Apple Glazed Corn Beef, Teriyaki Chicken, Rissole Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, Succotash, Fried Cabbage, Hot Mustard Sauce, Chicken Gravy, Cornbread, Pecan Brownies, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie
SPECIALTY BAR: DELI BAR

FRIDAY

Vegetable Soup, Beef Noodle Soup, Beef Cordon Bleu, Lemon Baked Fish, Parsley Butter Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Steamed Carrots, Herbed Broccoli, Dinner Rolls, Ginger Molasses Cookies, German Chocolate Cake, Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pumpkin Pie
SPECIALTY BAR:
Northside serves Hotdogs/polish and Sausage bar
Southside serves Mongolian BBQ

1998 Toyota Bongo Van

JCI till Sept. 2009. In good condition. Asking for \$1,800. For more information, call 090-1681-0866 (cell).

2002 Mazda Bongo Van

JCI till Oct. 2010. 88,000km. In good condition. Asking for \$2,800. For more information, call 090-1681-0866 (cell).

1992 Mitsubishi Galant VR-4

Seats 5, 5-speed, all wheel drive. PS / PB / PW / PL / 4WS / COLD A/C. Summer and winter tires with Aluminum rims. JCI Good till Oct. 2009. For more information please contact 080-3880-8943 (cell) or 080-3880-8944 (cell).

1996 Honda Prelude

2-door. Asking for \$600. JCI till 2010. Road taxes paid until April 2009. Needs new CV joint and includes brand new head lights. Great gas mileage. For more information, call 253-5355 (work) or 253-2808 (home).

1995 Subaru Domingo

Low fuel and low maintenance. Perfect for Iwakuni. Seats six and great for driving and parking offbase. Needs JCI renewed. \$2,500 OBO. Call 253-4646 (work) or 080-1385-7225 (cell) for more information.

Job Openings

Program coordinator

University of Phoenix is now hiring a part-time (30

THE SAMURAI'S EDGE

News from M.C. Perry Shools

Each school year brings changes — new students, new teachers, a new grade level — and at M.C. Perry Elementary, the students and staff members were introduced to a new program simply called RBL.

RBL, or Recess Before Lunch, was first talked about by the school leadership team in May 2008. Principal Cary spoke about how she had seen RBL work in DoDDS schools in Europe. After some research into the concept, a decision was made to put this plan into action. Mr. Adam Silvas, and Mrs. Ivette Silvas, new educators at M.C. Perry, provided some insight and advice from their experience in the states where their schools had recently transitioned to RBL. M.C. Perry's plan was finalized and put to a test on Aug. 25. RBL is often called "backwards lunch," since it goes against what most adults and students have experienced. However, the formal research supports that RBL is much better for students and their primary mission in school — learning.

Recess Before Lunch programs usually result in:

- Less food waste. (Students are hungrier after playing. They don't rush to finish so they can spend time with friends.)
- Increased water and milk consumption.
- Students are calmer in the cafeteria and when they return to class.
- Students refocus on learning more quickly when they return to class. (Typically, it takes 15-20 minutes for students to refocus when they return from recess.)
- Decrease in student behavior problems.

hours/week, \$11 per hour) program coordinator at the education center at MCAS Iwakuni. This is open until Oct. 10. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or possess proper documentation to work for a U.S. company. For more information or to send a resume, contact the area coordinator for the University of Phoenix at DSN: 634-5083 (Okinawa) or e-mail: Summer.Vanpelt@phoenix.edu.

Miscellaneous

BOWFLEX TREADCLIMBER TC5000

Purchased for \$2,600 with shipping two years ago. Slightly used. Asking \$1,800 firm. For more information, call 253-2611 or e-mail to dawn_larrabee@yahoo.com. For more information on the machine, visit www.bowflex.com.

Eddie Bauer stroller car seat combo for sale

Includes base, and infant head rest, \$140. Purchased at MCX for \$200, only used for 7 months. Contact 253-2611 or e-mail to dawn_larrabee@yahoo.com.

DVDs for sale

"The Wire," Seasons 1-5, \$100 OBO (sold as set)
"Quantum Leap," Seasons 1-5, \$100 OBO (sold as set). For more information, call 253-5301 (work) or 253-2265 (home).

Jam Band Auditions

A local vocalist/acoustic guitarist is compiling a jam band to play covers in the local area. A keyboardist, bassist, drummer and percussionist are desired. Saxophone player recruited! Influences include Tom Petty, Stone Sour, Dave Matthews Band, Coldplay, City and Colour, and Rufus Wainwright. Gear used: Taylor Acoustic Electric guitar and Schecter C-1 Plus electric guitar with Peavey Tube Amplification. Please call 253-2356 and leave a detailed message, or e-mail innervision@yahoo.com.

Youth Soccer Season kicks off



Teams gather during the opening ceremony of the Youth Sports Soccer Season at the Penny Lake fields here Sept. 13. The two-month season gains so much popularity with each year; rosters for teams fill up almost as soon as they open. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

SGT. JOSH COX
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Like the beginning moments of a highly anticipated professional championship game, youth soccer players here were formally introduced with hip hop music and cheers from a sea of fans. An opening ceremony, featuring a performance by Iwakuni High School's 56-member brass band and the formal introduction of the teams, marked the beginning of the air station's youth soccer season Sept. 13. Teams like the Heat, the Cobras, the Grasshoppers, the Comets and the Sharks were in uniform and ready for an action-packed, two-month-long season of soccer bliss.

Shortly after the ceremony, the teams took to the field and capitalized on weeks of practice.

Marine Corps Community Services coordinates Youth Sports activities like soccer on station, and invites station residents and families from off-base to participate in the various seasons.

According to MCCS, soccer is one of the most popular sports on the base, and its popularity often completely fills team rosters.



Five and 6-year-old soccer players swarm to the ball during a game at Penny Lake over the weekend. The Youth Soccer season officially began with an Opening Ceremony Saturday. Photo by Mrs. Ami Cox

Registration for the sport continues throughout the season to allow families who arrive at Iwakuni after opening ceremonies to participate.

The teams consist of American and Japanese players, and although a language barrier often exists, the teams practice, play and work together to reach a common goal — to have fun and learn about the game.

Naomi Higashi, a cultural exchange specialist with MCCS Semper Fit, ensures the coaches, parents and players can communicate effectively from sign ups until closing ceremonies.

"The Japanese players will get use to what coaches say," Higashi said. "At the beginning they may not understand, but they learn by the end of the season."

Higashi said the cultural exchange motivates many families to get involved in the program.

"That's what parents want — they want kids to learn English. ... It's a main reason why they want their children to join."

"I'm happy to see the American and Japanese kids have fun together through the soccer season," Higashi added. "I think it is a great experience for Japanese and American kids."



Five and 6-year-old "Sharks" soccer players sprint on the offense during a game at Penny Lake over the weekend. Children from ages 3 to 15 will play for the Iwakuni league this year. Photo by Mrs. Ami Cox



Fall Classic



A Marine Aircraft Group 12 safety rips the flags off of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron's center Gregory Joesph as he makes a run for the outside during the Fall Classic flag football game at the north side football field here Sept. 12. MAG-12's defense proved too strong for H&HS as they were stopped time and time again within striking distance of the end zone. In the end MAG-12's offense was able to support their defense's performance and win the game 12-6, ending H&HS's 10-year streak. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

MAG-12 ends H&HS's 10-year streak, 12-6

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12 brought an end to the 10-year Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron winning streak in the Fall Classic flag football game 12-6 at the north side football field here Sept. 12.

The final blow came near the end of the second half when MAG-12 quarterback John Helm made a quick shovel pass under pressure and connected with lineman Brandon Mumme for MAG-12's second touchdown.

As the game began, H&HS appeared to be the superior team looking fluid, easily getting first downs and almost scoring on their opening drive.

MAG-12 looked like a rag-tag team assembled moments before the game, struggling to get first downs but ultimately scoring first with a lob pass from

Helm to wide receiver Ross Cooley.

"We were just getting used to each other and finding out what worked," said Helm.

The rest of the first half was a defensive battle with neither side giving much ground and the half ending 6-0.

In the second half, both teams struggled to finish their drives, but H&HS was able score.

With 11 minutes remaining, Ardese connected with receiver Matthew Jones to tie the game up 6-6.

A long MAG-12 drive later, Helm and Mumme responded with a shovel pass connection to put MAG back in the lead 12-6.

Rallying, H&HS moved the ball down field rapidly with a monster 40-yard bomb from Ardese to wide receiver Fernando Hernandez.

Approximately 10 yards from the end zone with a fresh set of downs and 3

minutes remaining in regulation, H&HS looked like they would easily tie the game.

A sack resulting in a 5-yard loss and a bad snap later H&HS was looking at fourth-and-12. With 2 minutes remaining and probably only one chance left, Ardese went for the end zone.

The pass was long, but a controversial pass interference call gave H&HS another shot.

With defense charging in, Ardese deftly cut left going for the outside, but when it became apparent he would not make it, he passed the football ... just after passing the line of scrimmage, ending the drive and allowing MAG-12 to run out the clock.

"The difference in the game was they capitalized on our penalties and we didn't capitalize on theirs," said Forist Brockway, H&HS assistant coach and team captain.



Marine Aircraft Group 12's running back Andre Dixon teeters along the sideline with H&HS corner Isaiah Peart and Joel Gittings in hot pursuit during the Fall Classic at the north side football field here Sept. 12. Dixon's run was critical in MAG-12's first drive, but he was later sidelined with an injury. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli