During the summer of 1982, in the wake of a presidential directive, Marines went ashore at Beirut, Lebanon. Fifteen months later, on Oct. 23, 1983, extremists struck the first major blow against American forces - starting this long war on terrorism. On that Sunday morning a suicide bomber drove an explosive-laden truck into headquarters Battalion Landing Team 1/8, destroying the building and killing 241 Marines and corpsmen.

Extremists have attacked our nation, at home and abroad, numerous times since that fateful day in Beirut. Their aim has always been the same — to kill as many innocent Americans as possible. The attacks of Sept. 11 changed our nation forever, and our president has resolved that this nation will not stand idle while murderous terrorists plan their next strike. Marines will continue to take the fight to the enemy - hitting them on their own turf, crushing them when they show themselves and finding them where they hide.

Only a few Americans choose the dangerous, but necessary, work of fighting our nation's enemies. When our chapter of history is written it will be a saga of a selfless generation of Marines who were willing to stand up and fight for our nation; to defend those who could not defend themselves; to thrive on the hardship and sacrifice expected of an elite warrior class; to march to the sound of the guns; and to ably shoulder the legacy of those Marines who have gone before.

On our 233rd birthday, first remember those who have served and those “angels” who have fallen - our reputation was built on their sacrifices. Remember our families; they are the unsung heroes whose support and dedication allow us to answer our nation's call. Finally, to all Marines and sailors, know that I am proud of you and what you do. General Victor H. “Brute” Krulak said it best when he wrote, “...the United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps.” Your actions in Iraq, Afghanistan and across the globe are the core of why America loves her Marines. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,
General James T. Conway
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Happy Birthday Marine Corps
Commandant publishes birthday message

College fair keeps AVID students focused on goals

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli
Iwakuni Approach Staff

Matthew C. Perry Advancement Via Individual Determination students hosted a college fair in the Club Iwakuni ballroom here Oct. 28.

Mary C. Swanson designed the AVID program in 1980 to provide academic and social support for students in the academic middle who might need more assistance getting to college.

The program teaches organizational skills and learning tools the students can use to be successful academically.

“To better prepare them for college – it’s a set curriculum,” Shirley Cottle, AVID coordinator, said.

“The college fair is to keep that goal...
House of Dracula infects audience with laughter

Lance Cpl. Joseph Mazzarella  
Iwakuni Approach Staff

The Iwakuni Civic Theatre presented Martin Downsing’s “The House of Dracula” at Sakuray Theater here Oct. 29 through Nov. 1.

With daring direction by Ed Cattull, this performance of “The House of Dracula” was modulated with updated language and local reference to make it more accessible to audiences.

The play begins with Baron and Baroness Frankenstein, portrayed by Tony Bailey and Lauren Lin, respectively, arriving at Castle Dracula under more ominous circumstances.

As the play progresses more classic scenes of oldarry such as Igor, a Werewolf, Dr. Jekyll and of course Count and Crescent Dracula. 

In a Fastival twist, the monsters come together and discuss the down turn they are having with their continued existence as monsters.

It seems as though the immortal birds have begun to weigh heavily upon the characters and so Count Dracula, played by Todd Hyen, let’s the other characters in on his reasons for tempting them all to the castle — he has been in dialogue with Dr. Jekyll played by Kenji Tolentino, about an ancient spell that should remove their powers and make them normal.

Of course, none of the monsters want to be the first to sample the potential cure for their ill and in a feat of misdirection Dr. Jekyll pours the solution onto a dead monkey.

As the characters were not uncomforable with each other, the clear brings the monkey in to life setting the stage for comedic Benny Hill style chase scenes.

Transformed from Dr. Jekyll into Mr. Hyde, he pours the concoction into the cocktails of the unsuspecting guests to view the manner that ensues.

As there is such a get from the class they naturally have a drink and all quickly succumb to the elixir love potion before the audience.

Although comedically charged, the humor does match with what the char acts are doing and not the character running about like a sexualized teenager all the while trying to control the non-human.

Despite the initial effects of the potion, said Cattull, “the results do come to fruition and the characters are effectively turned into normal mortals.”

While the stage is set for good humor, the acting is excellent with each actor pulling their own weight with regard to guidance and counseling.

The 2008 DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey contains more parent-specific questions, particularly student-specific questions, which all accentuate the concern about keeping character portrayals.

Tolentino’s performance as Dr. Jekyll was especially compelling as he vacillated back and forth between the alter egos throughout the play.

As well, Andrea Ranout’s performance as the Daminning Frau Lurker most in close juxtaposition with the subservient, feisty, and submissive characters, Igor played by Jeremy Tolly.

Needless to say, the production was another impressive display put on by the Iwakuni Civic Theatre Group.

The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and are available online at www.dodea.edu. Parents who do not have access to the internet should contact their child’s school to determine availability.

Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout DoDEA. Surveys are distributed in all DoDEA schools in additional DoDEA-specific questions. The 2008 CSS contains more parent-specific student-specific questions, particularly with regard to guidance and counseling.

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For information about theater events contact Jennifer Cattull at 233-5556.

M.C. Perry schools to conduct customer satisfaction survey

The Department of Defense Education Activity will administer its biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey from Nov. 1 through Feb. 28, 2009. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA, from its most important customers — students and parents — about the quality of education it provides and areas needing other alterations.

The 2008 DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey represents a departure from tradition in that the survey will be administered to students in grades 4-12 and parents in grades K-12. In addition, DoDEA schools from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade were asked to complete the CSS.

This year, parents and students will participate in the survey; while DoDEA administrators, teachers and educational support staff will participate in the DoDEA Employee Satisfaction Survey to be administered during March 2009.

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AVID program

Before them, she added, AVID students had been working for two months in preparation for the qualifying college fair event.

Sending e-mails to college requesting information and pamphlets, creating a pamphlet for their selected college and retention campaign, all groups were not a few aspects of the project the students had to accomplish, said Cottle.

Following the scripted rubric, the students completed the projects primarily on their own with the teachers providing only guidance.

During the fair, the students set up their three bladable posters boards to highlight the main features of their respective colleges and pamphlets with more detailed information.

“This is not to say that we are struggling with homework or test preparation,” Mazzarella chimed in.

Both methods are useful for the students who are struggling with homework or test preparation.

As M.C. Perry’s AVID program begins at 6th grade, the school has taken at least one advanced course per year in middle school and two per year in high school.

Honors, advanced placement, and foreign language classes are considered advanced courses.

Mazzarella defined, “at the 6th grade said, ‘Fresh and exciting!’”

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Compiled by the
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Two MH-53E helicopters and support personnel departed here Oct. 27 for Pohang, Republic of Korea.

For the past year, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 Detachment 1 from Norfolk, Va., and two of their MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters have conducted airborne mine countermeasures training here.

Naval mines pose the same kind of threat to today’s navies as they did back in World War I and World War II. They can easily destroy an enemy ship or deter whole movements of ships by blocking off major ports and waterways. The United States Navy and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force have developed various countermeasures to combat the threat of all types of naval mines.

“Naval mines were a very vexing experience working with MCMs back in the past. Our interaction with our Japanese counterparts at HM-111 has increased our own readiness and our interoperability within the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force,” said HM-14 officer-in-charge, Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Farlin.

HM-14 also participated in a simulated humanitarian aid and disaster relief exercise in the Tokyo area. “HM-14 had to respond to a simulated disaster striking Tokyo Bay,” said Farlin. “Our mission was to transport people from the affected area to the USNS Essex out at sea. The exercise went flawless.” HM-14 also participated in Exercise Cobra Gold 2008, part of Thailand’s joint-combined annual training suite.

While participating in the exercise, HM-14 offered to provide humanitarian aid to Burma after Cyclone Nargis devastated the Burmese coast May 2. HM-14 stood by waiting for the Burmese government to approve its participation in Operation Caring Response.

“We were on 24-hour response ready to deliver humanitarian aid supplies to Burma, but the call never came,” said Lt. j.g. Katie E. Cull, HM-14 co-pilot. Nevertheless, it was a good learning experience in foreign air-space operational protocol, she added.

“As a pilot, you’re always looking for ways to improve yourself. The more operational experience you have — the more opportunity you have to improve your skills,” Cull said.

“Overall, the support that we have gotten from the base here has been phenomenal both operationally and on the quality-of-life side of things,” said Farlin.

ARABIAN GULF — An MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter tows a MK-105 Magnetic Influence Mine Sweeping System or “sled” during operations with USS Saipan in the Arabian Gulf in September 2008. Saipan was on deployment to the region conducting maritime security operations, ensuring security and safety in international waters so that all commercial shipping can operate freely while in the region. Photo by MC2 Steve Weber

“HM-14 moves Far East deployment to ROK”

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARRANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Physical fitness and nutrition values start at a young age — it’s never too early, or too late, to start focusing on a healthy lifestyle.

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School third-graders literally took a field trip during fitness day here Oct. 28. In a joint-coordinated effort between M.C. Perry Elementary and Marine Corps Community Services, the third-graders abandoned the monotony of the classroom and took to the field and tennis courts behind the school for a little practical application.

“It was part of the class curriculum,” Jeramie Johnson, Irnonorks Gym fitness coordinator, said. “They were studying basic nutrition and fitness.”

During fitness day, Semper Fit instructors Kelly Kellman, Leah Novak and Barbara Roman gave the children an introduction to pilates, yoga, and box. “Since we were on a time limit it was more or less to have fun — more of an introduction,” said Johnson.

Kay Guevara and Johnson led a nutrition trivia relay race where the children competed in teams by racing back and forth to a point and answering a question about nutrition.

The third-graders would rotate from station to station every 15 minutes. “It was good stuff,” said Johnson. “Educational and fun.”

A third-grader hops to collect the ball atop the cone and then race back to her cheering teammates during the nutrition relay at Matthew C. Perry Elementary here Oct. 28. During the nutrition relay teams competed by racing to fill their relay teams’ bags with appropriately sized health food items and then portability to answer a fitness or nutrition question related to their in-class material. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marranelli

“MCSS instills fitness values early”

“We want to try and build up our kids programs,” said Johnson. “We already have the Kid Fit program.”

“I really would like to see that develop into something bigger,” he added.

Events like this highlight something Johnson believes the station takes for granted sometimes.

“I think the children are just as important to the community because they are here and we don’t have a lot of events geared to the kids,” said Johnson.

Ultimately the event demonstrates MCSS’s commitment to the community both young and old.

Originally the intent was to have the event at the Irnonorks Gym but with Marine Corps Ball setup in progress, the event had to be moved or not happen at all.

“We wanted to do our part,” said Johnson. “So when we were called upon we made arrangements to make it happen.”

Unfortunately a lot of what MCSS does goes undocumented because planning and preparation happen behind the scenes and it’s easy to take for granted a program so ubiquitous around the air station.

“A lot of what we do isn’t our job per se, but individuals out there making things happen,” said Johnson.

“I was very fortunate to have staff willing to participate and give their time,” he added.

Semper Fit has a whole host of events coming up for all ages including The Great American Smoke-Out scheduled for Nov. 20.

For more information contact the Irnonorks Gym at 253-6578 or check out their section on the MCSS website www.mccsiwakuni.com.
The Magic of Tokyo Disney Resort

In one day service members and their families can visit a Fantasyland, American Waterfront, Mediterranean Harbor, an Arabian Coast, or simply Journey to the Center of the Earth — inside the enchanted Tokyo Disney Resort. The Magic of Disney transforms Tokyo into a kingdom full of exciting thrills for all ages. The resort features two major parks — DisneySea, which opened seven years ago, and Tokyo's Disneyland, which is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

DisneySea is a park full of activities for the whole family, and features attractions like the Tower of Terror and Raging Spirits rollercoaster. The park also features several in-door attractions, including The Little Mermaid's Lagoon and a live Big Band show. A man-made lake in the center of the park is the stage for several popular Disney flotilla parades and shows. The shows feature animated eruptions of fire and water, and of course, performances by the beloved Mickey and Minnie. DisneySea is equally exciting. The park features the iconic castle surrounded by seven themed lands. In Critter Country, visitors can rush down Splash Mountain in an oversized log raft. In Tomorrowland, guests can travel through the galaxy in a rollercoaster inside Space Mountain. A few Disneyland family friendly attractions include Pirates of the Caribbean, Dumbo the Flying Elephant and Alice's Tea Party. The park also entertains thousands with shows and parades throughout the day. Most parades vary according to the season. In the evening, a huge parade full of illuminated floats called, Dreamlights, treks through the park. For first-time Disney guests or seasoned Mickey Mouse fanatics, this park isn’t a disappointment. The park provides a gateway to explore Japan and enjoy the Magic of Disney simultaneously. Marine Corps Community Services offers fun trips to Tokyo at affordable prices for service members and their families here. To learn more about trips to Tokyo Disney Resort and more, contact Information, Tours and Travel at 253-4377, or Information and Referral at 253-4197.

Disney guests watch as a special Halloween Parade rolls through Tokyo Disneyland. The parade is one of many daily shows offered by the resort. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox

Crush from Disney’s “Finding Nemo,” swims through Tokyo Disneyland during the park’s Dreamlights Parade. The parade is one of many shows offered by the resort. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox.

Cinderella’s Castle illuminates the Tokyo Disneyland night sky. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox.

Lilyann Overton skips around DisneySea with Donald and Daisy Duck. Children have many opportunities to meet and greet with their favorite Disney characters at the parks. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox.
Infantry Marines supplement security platoon

Sgt. Michael T. Lowry
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

RAWAH, Iraq — For most of the Marines of Provisional Rifle Platoon 3, Regimental Combat Team 5, common infantry training is an unassuming version. The training for Marines with PRP-3 are trained as members of combat support military occupational specialties, which means they provide necessary assistance to support the ground combat element. However, the platoon is currently conducting an infantry mission here by providing security of the roadways and being available to help them succeed in the platoon’s mission, Pfc. Byrnnit Lowry.

“I’m happy we’re not getting shot at. I don’t want any stars or crosses. If nothing is happening, then no one dies. It’s good seeing the progress here and being able to say ‘hey, that’s partly (because of us).’”

Cpl. Drew March

All of the infantry Marines with PRP-3 volunteered to return to Iraq — mostly within three months after returning from a seven-month deployment with 3rd, 5th Marines, though some are from 2nd Bu, 5th Marines — to serve as members of Grizzly Mobile, RCT-5’s security platoon. When they arrived at RCT-5’s Combat Support Headquarters at Camp Riper, which is the information Marines are the ones who are the experts, the ones with all the experience, so turn to them a lot more Marines have PRP-3 have gone the country when the situation was more active, with frequent attacks from insurgents and foreign fighters from terrorist networks causing a dangerous situation for Coalition forces and peaceful Iraqis. Though the low number of combat contacts this year is a sign of significant strides toward stability, the combat-experienced Marines have not let down their guard.

“My first deployment (in 2006, with 3rd, 5th Marines) was pretty intense,” said MOS, who also served as a squad leader on his second deployment after attending infantry squad leader courses. “The situation in Fallujah was better than in the past and on the way to improvement, but it was still pretty wild.”

“By the second deployment, (from Sept. 2007 to Apr. 2008), it was significantly better.”

“I’m happy we’re not getting shot at,” March said. “I don’t want any stars or crosses. If nothing is happening, then no one dies. It’s good seeing the progress here and being able to say ‘hey, that’s partly (because of us).’”
Run finishes Red Ribbon Week

More than 200 lace up for the annual 5K Red Ribbon Run held in support of Red Ribbon Week here Oct. 31. The event rallied those against alcohol and drug abuse and promoted a healthy lifestyle.

Last year was the first time the run was held and the turnout was approximately 50 runners, according to coordinators from Marine and Family Services. This year, the larger turnout was attributed from Marine and Family Services, made market the weeklong campaign. Erica Montros, a Kannapolis N.C. native, published the weeklong campaign receives when held in the community to take a stand against alcohol and drug abuse.

Many things were done this year to market the weeklong campaign. Erica S. Ramos, the week’s top coordinator from Marine and Family Services, made sure the event was highly publicized much like the attention the weeklong campaign receives when held in the United States.

“We’ve gotten together as one in the community to take a stand against drugs and alcohol,” she said. The Iwakuni Approach, November 7, 2008

Sports

The Iwakuni Approach, November 7, 2008

Classifieds
This uniform wasn’t earned to be trashed.

Celebrate the Corps’ birthday responsibly

Photo illustration by Sgt. Josh Cox