THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 44, Vol. 1

Friday, November 21, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Marines conduct HAZMAT training down under



Sgt. Jeffery Velazquez, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron crash fire rescue HAZMAT Technician, and Corporal Anthony L. Jeens, a senior Royal Australian Air Force firefighter, help Lance Cpl. James M. Frame put on a protective hazardous material suit. Read the full story on page 5. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

M.C. Perry continues school improvement

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In an on-going effort to improve the Matthew C. Perry School since its reaccreditation, the M.C. Perry high school began implementing steps to more effectively teach reading comprehension and problem solving to its students.

In February, a team from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement visited M.C. Perry Schools and during the process of accreditation prepared a report with suggestions to improve the school.

Even though the school was reaccredited and won't be officially reviewed for five years, school improvement is a continuous process.

"The intent is you're always working," Gail Anderson, M.C. Perry principle, said. "The school improvement process pretty much drives the curriculum."

Beginning in October, teachers from M.C. Perry started teaching the students Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review or SQ3R, and Identify, Describe, Evaluate, Act, and Look back and Learn or IDEAL.

Both are methodological processes, used by a wide array of organizations including law schools and businesses, designed to increase reading comprehension and problem solving proficiency.

"When you have a problem you don't

just dive at it — this gives you a framework to be more effective," Brian Kuzak, School Improvement Committee Chairman. said.

The goal is for these analytical strategies to be used in every class to internalize the thought process into the students' minds so they are used without explicitly going through the steps mentally one at a time.

"At first they don't want to stop and go through the steps but they find it useful, and teachers have reported students using it without being

prompted," said Kuzak.

Although not enough time has elapsed to collect for quantitative metrics, the

SEE IMPROVE ON PAGE 3

Marines fight unforgiving Australian climate for grey belts

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

BASE TINDAL, Australia (Nov. 21, 2008) — This past July, the Commandant of the Marine Corps signed a message (ALMAR 034/07) stating that all Marines must attain their grey belt prior to Dec. 31,2008

Aware of this impending deadline, Staff Sgt. Shawn D. Jones, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 ordnance noncommissioned officer-in-charge, is doing everything in his power to ensure the Marines participating in Aces North, a bilateral training exercise here, are able to earn their grey belts before they return to Iwakuni.

"Apart from making sure these Marines have their grey belts before Dec. 31, it's important for these Marines to learn the principles and ethos that are learned through the grey belt course," said Jones.

Marines taking the grey belt course while deployed to Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal must endure intense workout sessions in one-hundred degree weather. The course is spread out over a two-week, four-hour-a-day workout schedule.

Before each four-hour session, the Marines go on a forty-minute run in boots and utilities.

After the run, the Marines stretch out and perform other warm up exercises before beginning the course.

The course entails learning skills in weapon techniques, small joint manipulations, basic takedowns, and upper and lower strikes more advanced than those taught in the tan belt course.

Also the Marines grapple each other to observe the techniques of each individual fighter and how mistakes can be easily made if one does not keep his cool during the match.

SEE MCMAP ON PAGE 3



Marines shine in 233rd **Birthday Ball** 6



Grab a board, catch surfing fever



Sasebo steals turkey, teams vow revenge

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS 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 not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and *space. Letters can be dropped* off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni. pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

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Chaplain's Corner

'The care package'

CHAPLAIN ROBERT MILLS STATION CHAPLAIN

I wish you all could have been with me in my kitchen a few minutes ago. (Well, I don't literally mean all 6,000 of you. That just would not work in a mid-rise kitchen). I had just come home for lunch, and my wife and girls were coming back from a post officecommissary run. Amid the rattle of grocery carts (by the way, to whomever thought of putting grocery carts in mid-rise lobbies — THANK YOU) and the rustle of plastic bags, I heard one of the girls say we had received two care packages in the mail.

All other action in the house stopped while the care packages were immediately opened and the contents examined. For no less than 10 minutes, my house echoed with the delighted shrieks of family members who were discovering treasure after treasure (My apologies to the upstairs neighbors with the baby!). Some of the shrieks even were coming from the girls. You see, someone in Washington, a close friend of my wife, had decided to send us some food items she thought might be rare here in Iwakuni. She hit the nail on the head. There were several food items that we hadn't seen since we arrived here in April. Somehow, this friend seemed to know exactly what we needed and what we would want. It was like an unscheduled birthday in our house as we celebrated the fact that somebody loved us and cared enough to send us what we wanted and needed.

Most of us receive care packages from time to time. When we do, we get excited and spend time celebrating the gifts of our friends' or family members' generosity. It is so nice to know that we are loved and supported – that we matter to somebody.

Today, I want you to know you are loved and supported — that you matter to me. God has given so much to me in my life. I just want to pass

some of it along to you. Maybe you are a senior officer with a great load of responsibility, trying desperately to make sure there's enough of you to go around — I appreciate you! Maybe you are a private or private first class, and this is your first long time away from home, and the echoes of your boot camp drill instructors still ring in your head — I appreciate you! Maybe you are a military spouse with too much to do, not enough time to do it and having to keep it all running while your Marine or sailor is gone too much — I appreciate you! Maybe you are the civilian contractor, working far from home and trying to figure out a new job or a new boss — I appreciate you! Maybe you are a faithful Japanese employee who has been working for many years at this station while the Americans come and go — I appreciate you!

I want to encourage all of you to encourage each other. Send a care package of verbal encouragement today. It will go a long way toward making all of us happier and healthier.



Pop rock Filipino cover band, Live 8, makes its first performance of the season during the "Keeping Spirits Bright" Pre-Holiday Safety Brief at the Sakura Theater here Monday. The band performed several times during the brief and will be performing periodically throughout the season at Club Iwakuni here until the end of the year. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Corps Question

Can I transfer benefits to my dependents under the Post 9/11 GI Bill?

Members of the Armed Forces on Aug. 1, 2009 may be offered the opportunity to transfer benefits to their spouses or dependant children by the Department of Defense. Policies on use of transferability will be issued in the coming months.



School improvement committee takes input, needs more

SUBMITTTED BY THE BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC

As you plan for your Thanksgiving or Christmas vacation to see the Great Wall in China, visit the Angor Wat ruins in Cambodia, the temples in Bangkok, the Sapporo Ice Festival in Japan or the ski resorts in Korea, you probably haven't considered what to do if there is a medical emergency.

TRICARE recently added a new benefit to cover emerlocating recommended providers in remote locations. gency care for you and your family traveling overseas. Active duty family members that are not enrolled in Under the TRICARE Global Remote Overseas pro-Prime. and uniformed services retirees and their family gram, International SOS is a worldwide medical assistance company that TRICARE has teamed with to deliver the Prime benefit in remote overseas loca-

tions. Through its alarm center in Singapore, ISOS is able to assist travelers with medical advice, healthcare

finder services and referrals to quality providers when beneficiaries are traveling in overseas locations. ISOS is also able to place payment guarantees at foreign facilities, enabling Prime beneficiaries to avoid upfront payments and enjoy a cashless, claimless benefit.

Traveling active duty service members have already been enjoying the services of ISOS when they required members, regardless of their enrollment status, are not urgent and emergent medical and dental care, whether eligible for this new benefit. they were deployed, on temporary duty, or even while Emergency conditions are those that threaten your life, on leave. limb or eyesight.

Now, access to ISOS services under TGRO has been extended to traveling Prime-enrolled active duty family

Marines improve combat readiness

MCMAP FROM PAGE 1

"In this course we learn that it's important to be patient

Sisouvong, an embarkation specialist with Marine Aircraft Group 12 taking the grey belt course. "When you're not in the right

Before each four-hour session, the Marines go on a forty-minute run in boots and utilities.

mindset or too frantic during a fight, you let the opponent take advantage of your mistakes and eventually they will have the upper hand."

the Marines go over core values and the history behind prepared before each class."

the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

"At the end of each session, we sit in a school circle with our instructor and discuss what the primary uses for and carefully pick the right move," said Pfc. Anusone J. MCMAP are," said Sisouvong. "MCMAP is intended for

real life combat situations, not just your typical street fight. We talk about Medal of Honor recipients and how their heroism and discipline is what we strive for through this course."

"The fact that the Marines enrolled in this course must endure the heat and pain of each four-hour class is great for combat conditioning," said Jones. "As instructors we Aside from grappling and learning fighting techniques, ensure they are well hydrated and physically and mentally

(Left) Lance Cpl. Cheng P. Kong performs a leg sweep on his opponent Nov. I I during the second day of the grey belt course at Teal Camp, Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Australia. The Marines taking the grey belt course while deployed to Australia must endure one hundred-degree weather and long workout sessions. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

IMPROVE FROM PAGE

class progress is monitored.

"In department we're looking at the work on a monthly basis to get an idea of how they're (the students) progressing," said Kuzak.

But numbers don't show everything, nor do they necessarily demonstrate a programs overall efficacy — ultimately the students must choose to apply the methods.

"I have seen a difference at a personal level with how my child studies at home," said Anderson.

Additionally the school has implemented a Read 180 class to assist struggling students who have shown significant improvement said Kuzak.

Also Department of Defense Education Activity has purchased 114 Scholastic Aptitude Test online accounts to provide additional practice resources to the students. As improvement is a constant evolution, each year the improvement committee must continue successful strategies and attempt to expand the tools it provides.

"We're going to continue using these strategies and teachers will work together to find other ways to solve our goals and do some fine tuning," said Kuzak.

But teachers are not the only ones responsible for school improvement as there are numerous ways for parents, students — anyone in the community to provide their input and assistance.

"We are part of this community and we want your help even if you don't have kids," said Anderson. "Just a couple of hours could make a difference."

TRICARE extends benefits during leave

members who require emergent medical care or emergency medical evacuation overseas.

TGRO will assist all Prime-enrolled active duty family members, but those with other health insurance must coordinate with their primary insurer to ensure payment for medical services.

ISOS is not authorized to guarantee payments for urgent or routine care but may assist Prime family members with



TRICARE defines an emergency as a medical, maternity or psychiatric condition that would lead a prudent

layperson to believe that a serious medical condition existed, or the absence of medical attention would result in a threat to his or her life, limb or sight and requires immediate medical treatment or which has painful symptoms requiring immediate attention to relieve suffering.

Conditions that require emergency care include loss of consciousness, shortness of breath, chest pain, uncontrolled bleeding, sudden or unexpected weakness or paralysis, poisoning, suicide attempts, drug overdose, acute psychosis and major depression.

Pregnancy-related medical emergencies involve a sudden and unexpected medical complication that puts the mother, the baby or both at risk.

ISOS will assist travelers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To contact ISOS, dial the International Direct Dial prefix for the country you are calling from, plus 65-6-338-9277.

You can even reverse the charges and call ISOS collect.

A great way to keep this information with you at all times is to stop by your local TRICARE service center to pick up a TRICARE Pacific Travel Card.

The card fits conveniently in your wallet or pocket book and also provides numbers for assistance if you are traveling in the United States.

For more information on ISOS, contact your local TRI-CARE service center at the military treatment facilities or email the TRICARE Area Office-Pacific at TPAO. CSC@med.navy.mil.

Sponsorship helps GIs 'pay it forward'

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Let's face it. Service members and their families come to Japan expecting a cultural experience. But not everyone is ready for their first episode to kick in the minute they step off the plane.

The station has implemented several initiatives that help smooth the great transition for those in uniform and for the family too. One of them the sponsorship program — eases the stresses from the Corps' global shifting by putting a Marine at your service.

Gunnery Sgt. Greg C. Krenek and his family have lived here for two years and after assisting four families in their permanent change of station, he was recently elected as sponsor of the quarter by the Relocation Assistance Office at Marine and Family Services here. When his family was new to the community, another good sponsor with a few good ideas not only had a room reserved at the temporary lodging facility, but provided a few meals worth of groceries for the tired family. It's something that Krenek now does for each family he is

assigned

"You learn to pay it forward," Krenek said. "Everything a newcomer needs is outlined in the sponsorship class, but doing a little extra can get them started on the right foot and make them feel a whole lot more welcome."

Krenek suggests staying in constant contact with the family before they

assignment. "We had a ton of questions, but the majority of them were answered before we left (Marine Corps Recruit Depot) Parris Island."

Krenek said the best thing a sponsor can do is be available at all times. It's one of the strategies outlined at the sponsorship class offered at the Relocation Assistance Office at Marine and Family

"When my husband and I heard we were going to Japan, we were excited. But then we were like, 'Oh no. What are we going to do?'" - Elizabeth Salas

arrive, walking through and preparing their room at the TLF, getting any sort of paperwork they might need such as school enrollment papers and even meeting them at the airport when they arrive.

"When my husband and I heard we were going to Japan, we were excited. But then we were like, 'Oh no. What are we going to do?'" said Elizabeth Salas, a member of Krenek's most recent family

Services here.

The class, held the first Thursday of each month at Building 411 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., teaches Department of Defense directives and Marine Corps Bases Japan directives on the program. Any service member or civilian can be a sponsor. Units normally designate some personnel as sponsors and assign them to inbound personnel periodically throughout their tour here based on

rank, military occupational specialty and family demographics.

"The main mission of the program is to assist the service member in his PCS and in-processing into the unit," said Alexander R. Sumlin, a coordinator with Information Referral and Relocation Assistance Office. "The program can be really beneficial when the sponsor takes

it one step further by helping that new join and the family fit into the community more comfortably."

Normally, junior unaccompanied Marines and sailors here are not assigned a sponsor. But certain developments here were designed to assist in their successful PCS. Programs like the Station Shuttle Service, Joint Reception Center, and inbound briefs

save newcomers from having to figure everything out on their own, ultimately saving them time, money and the risk of getting lost in Japan on their very first night here.

The Relocation office encourages those not assigned by their unit to be sponsors as well. Those interested in the program can contact the Information Referral and Relocation Assistance Office by calling 253-3311.

Station personnel support CFC in huge numbers

Sgt. Josh Cox IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Combined Federal Campaign is designed to give service members and federal employees a chance to easily donate to official charity organizations, and station personnel here have leaped at the opportunity to donate during this year's campaign.

Donors from Iwakuni have raised more than \$80,000 in support of the campaign to date, said Capt. David S. LaCharite, the station's CFC community area project manager.

"We should have one-hundred percent contact across the board," said LaCharite. "We've (received) donations ranging from one dollar to 15-hundred dollars." According to the campaign's official Web site, "CFC

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is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year.

"Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world."

The CFC Overseas has raised more than \$8 million since the beginning of this year's fund drive.

"If people make it a priority to give some money to charity every year ... this is a really easy way to do it." LaCharite explained. "All of the charities have been screened."

LaCharite hopes Iwakuni can donate in the six figures before the campaign concludes Dec. 3.

Units like Marine Air Control Squadron 4 have paved the way in contributions to the CFC. 78 percent of the squadron has donated an average of approximately \$100 per donor.

Many CFC charities include organizations like the Wounded Warriors Project, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, all aimed to benefit service members and their families.

"We have all been touched by these charities in some way," LaCharite added.

LaCharite said the best way to view official charity listings or contribute to the CFC is to locate your unit

CFC coordinator, or visit http://www.cfcoverseas.org. "You can give online," LaCharite added. "That's probably the easiest way to give at this point."

Staff Sgt. Smith L.A.

VMFA- 242

Pfc. Fraser K.W. Lance Cpl. Castillo J.B. Lance Cpl. Martin R.G. Lance Cpl. Quandt R.A. Lance Cpl. Quitana S.M. Cpl. Galley D.V. Cpl. Gilmore T.D. Cpl. Joiner J.W. Cpl. Simison R.A. Sgt. Nickell B.K.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl. Mayorodriguez J.A. Lance Cpl. Regan S.E.

Cpl. Dault M.J.



Sgt. Jeffery Velazquez (right) gives a class to Royal Australian Air Force firefighters over the principles of hazardous materials and HAZMAT countermeasures at RAAF Base Tin-dal's fire station Nov. 10. Velazquez and three other members of the station's crash fire rescue department are participating in Aces North, a month long bilateral training exercise between the United States Marine Corps and the Royal Australian Air Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

Crash fire rescue Marines teach RAAF new tricks

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE "I received rigorous HAZMAT training at the Fire TINDAL, Australia (Nov. 21, 2008) — Headquarters Academy in Saint Angelo, Texas, and I thought I could and Headquarters Squadron crash fire rescue share some of my knowledge with our Australian Marines are training bilaterally with their Australian allies," said Velazquez. "I saw that their training counterparts in Aces North, a month-long training schedule required some form of HAZMAT training exercise between the United States Marine Corps and and I felt I could contribute to their training by sharing the Royal Australian Air Force. my expertise. I offered to give them a class over HAZMAT and they welcomed the idea with open Upon arriving to Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, crash fire rescue Marines set up a work arms."

schedule with RAAF firefighters to help provide support for Aces North.

The crash fire rescue Marines adjusted well to their temporary station as the Australian firefighters use almost identical firefighting vehicles and equipment. The Marines offered to teach the Australians their skills in exchange for participation in their training

evolutions

Sgt. Jeffery Velazquez, H&HS Crash Fire Rescue Hazardous Materials Technician, gave his first class to

MWSS-171 Pfc. Winemiller J.B. Lance Cpl. Alford N.E. Lance Cpl. Ambrosio M.R. Lance Cpl. Baker C.W. Lance Cpl. Cortez F.B. Lance Cpl. Baltazar B.D. Lance Cpl. Brown M.G. Lance Cpl. Hubler N.B. Lance Cpl. Frias A.G. Lance Cpl. Ivey A.S. Lance Cpl. Hess D.J. Lance Cpl. Lovett J.A. Lance Cpl. Hulme S.C. Lance Cpl. McCaslin J.L. Lance Cpl. Lavine M.J. Lance Cpl. Moore S.D. Lance Cpl. Peart I.L. Lance Cpl. Niemczyk B.A. Lance Cpl. Smith R.S. Lance Cpl. Quinlan N.R. Lance Cpl. Wright C.A. Lance Cpl. Sierra C.M. Cpl. Buzek A.L. Lance Cpl. Villasenor T. Cpl. Dominguez B.L. Cpl. Dejean J.R. Cpl. Langland C.L. Cpl. Gonzalez F.M. Cpl. Willis J.A. Cpl. Perrault K.G. Staff Sgt. Miller A.W.

MAG-12 Pfc. Allen W.A.

Lance Cpl. Bryan Z.M. Lance Cpl. Kennedy T.W. Lance Cpl. Peluso J.M. Lance Cpl. Slover J.A. Cpl. Lauth N.S. Cpl. McHeffey S.K. Cpl. Mumme B.L. Cpl. Vankummer N.D. Sgt. Finney J.N. Sgt. Simmons C.F.

MALS-12

Pfc. Ross D.J. Lance Cpl. Hutton S.F. Lance Cpl. Walker J.L. Lance Cpl. Winkeleer K.E. Cpl. Altmiller A.W. Cpl. Beard J.W. Cpl. Dickson III J.H.

Cpl. Heilman H.M. Cpl. Levy A.L. Cpl. Marin F. Cpl. McEvoy P.J. Cpl. Morgan D.A. Cpl. Myers M.N. Cpl. Pate C.C. Cpl. Pezzullo J.M. Cpl. Royes K.T. Cpl. Ryerson H.M. Cpl. Vang J.T. Cpl. Winters J.S. Cpl. Wright J.J. Sgt. Hutchinson J.W.

Sgt. Lloyd W.J.

Cpl. Echols S.C. Cpl. Eckols M.R. Cpl. Gonzalezvega R.

Cpl. Richardsen C.W.

FEATURES

Fire training down under

RAAF firefighters Nov. 13 over hazardous materials, and common incidents and hazards associated with HAZMAT and HAZMAT countermeasures.

Velazquez gave a lengthy PowerPoint presentation over HAZMAT, and Lance Cpl. James M. Frame, a crash fire rescue specialist, demonstrated the proper way of wearing a HAZMAT suit and its various functions and applications to real-world scenarios. "It's always good to see the way other firefighters do things to validate the way we do things," said Flight Sergeant Mark A. Bowell, senior noncommissioned officer of training at RAAF Tindal's fire station. "Sgt. Velazquez's presentation was very beneficial

to us because we don't do a lot of HAZMAT training and refreshing on these skills is important to keep us prepared for possible HAZMAT incidents," said Cpl. Anthony L. Jeens, senior RAAF firefighter.

In exchange for the Marines' contribution to their training, the RAAF firefighters have offered to train the crash fire rescue Marines how to rappel down from a chopper and fight a wildfire during Aces North.

For Velazquez and Frame, this will be a first-time experience.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity to rappel from a chopper," said Frame. "It's something I've never done before, and I'm looking forward to the adrenaline rush that I'm going to get from it."

One of the first points Velazquez made during his presentation alluded to his pride of being a firefighter and how something unique to all firefighters, never mind their nationality, is their tenacity and addiction to adrenaline and being in hazardous situations.

"When most people run away from a hazardous situation, we go straight at it," he said. "It's part of being a Marine and part of being a firefighter."

A ball to remember



Col. Michael O'Halloran, station commanding officer and (Ret.) Sgt. Maj. Alvin N. Hockaday, former station sergeant major, salute the station color guard during the Marine Corps birthday ball at Ironworks Gym here Nov. 14. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Station brings its best to 3 successful ceremonies

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Growing up or growing old in an organization steeped in tradition, each Marine takes pride in celebrating the day their Corps was born — pride so strong, it is contagious to everyone around.

Whether escorted right to the red carpet or strutting proudly from the halls of the barracks, Marines and their guests made their way to their 233rd Marine Corps birthday ball celebrations at Ironworks Gvm here from Nov. 12 to Nov. 15.

The events had the usual cakecutting ceremonies, words from guest speakers and other activities synonymous to Marine Corps birthday traditions.

In his birthday message, Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, inspired viewers and encouraged Marines, indicating staff and a team of leathernecks here, into making the big nights a memorable their role in today's battlefield and one can only expect the celebration was success.

lineage.

He wrote, "On our 233rd birthday, first remember those who have served and those 'angels' who have fallen — our reputation was built on their sacrifices."

Marines observe their history and carry out their traditions almost religiously. Those customs set forth for the birthday ball are no different.

During his time as the 13th commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. John A. Lejeune ultimately dictated how Marines would celebrate the anniversary of their inception each year. Adhering closely to those orders, Marines around the globe are known for doing just that and a whole lot more. In fact, the celebration is notorious for being the paramount of formal events wherever Marines are stationed. With a well-equipped Marine Corps Community Services

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ | asking them to remember their gutsy | just as spectacular as those stateside and around the world.

This year, approximately 2,250 attended the birthday celebrations. With that came a monstrous coordination effort and a hefty price tag of some \$200,000.

MCCS personnel began planning for the three nights immediately following last year's celebrations. This year's event was around the same size as those in the past, but more was done to enhance the experience for those attending. Ball goers enjoyed the ceremony from several different angles on six giant high-definition projector screens put on by MCCS marketing. The mobile kitchen alone took more than two weeks to set up and required nearly 100 workers to prepare and serve the food each night.

Thousands of hours working through holidays and weekends from MCCS' more than 900-strong went



The first cut is made into the Marine Corps birthday cake at a birthday ball celebration.Tradi first slice of cake goes to the guest of honor. Photo by Pfc. John M. Raufmann



(Ret.) Lt. Gen. Frederick McCorkle





Following Marine Corps tradition, escorts execute a present sword as the guest of honor and senior Marine march between them during the station Marine Corps birthday ball ceremony Nov. 14. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Marines put on a uniform pageant for guests at the Marine Corps birthday ball celebrations at Ironworks Gym here from Nov. I 2 to Nov. I 4.The performance showcased the history of Marine Corps uniforms ranging from those worn in the late 1700s to present time. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

CORPS NEWS HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Elite Iraqi fighters are led through advanced courses Marines conduct infantry training

Sgt. Michael T. Lowry REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

AL ASAD, Iraq (Nov. 9, 2008) — Iraqi Army soldiers trying to become part of an elite Iraqi special forces unit trained here with Marines from Regimental Combat Team 5 in a course in advanced infantry tactics from Oct. 27 through Nov. 9.

More than 100 Iraqi Army soldiers from various locations in Iraq, handpicked by their leaders, participated in the course, which encompassed 12 training days.

"This is much better than how we normally train," said Ali Hussein, an infantryman in the Iraqi Army. "We've practiced more of the techniques that will help us. This is the best way."

Before tackling advanced techniques, Marines reinforced the soldiers' training in basic formations, hand-and-arm signals and weapons carries.

Then the soldiers learned how to cordon off improvised explosive devices, how to conduct military operations in urban terrain and how to cross danger zones while patrolling.

"They've been showing vast improvements since day one," said Sgt. Jeffrey R. Kurek, 22, Iraqi Security Forces liaison with RCT-5 from Oak Forest, Ill.

"Most of them are highly motivated, so that helps us as instructors since we can see they're getting it."

The Iraqi troops trained in repetition, so that the drills would become second nature to them when they actually use them outside of training.

"When they go out on real missions, they will remember how to do it," said Alaa Hussein Hashem, a platoon commander with the Iraqi Army, while observing his soldiers training. "They have to practice a lot to retain the knowledge."

"I've liked everything we've trained on, like foot patrols and securing areas," said Husam Rasem, an infantryman with the Iraqi Army. "It helped practicing over and over."

Even though much of the material was new to the soldiers, they have no lack of confidence in their own abilities.

"I have no doubts we'll do very well," Hussein said. "We're getting better step by step, and when it gets to be the real situation, we'll do it 100 percent."

Though most of the soldiers say they are picking everything up with ease, they also recognize they're only as good as the soldier next to them.

"We cannot do this by ourselves, so teamwork is important," Rasem said. "If someone messes up, the others are there to help out and correct him."

The lessons learned by the Iraqi soldiers will help the country's military not only by having individuals trained in the techniques taught by the Marines, but also in the ability of these Iraqi solders to lead others within the Iraqi Army and to train them in turn.

"I volunteered for the Iraqi Army to secure my hometown and provide protection for my people," said Rasem about his reason for volunteering for the Army.

"I want to better myself, so I'm excited to get this new training and help others."

The Iraqi soldiers will go back to their units and, through their example, pass on the knowledge they learned with the Marines during the recent training.





11

Sgt. Jeffrey Kurek, Iraqi Security Forces liaison with Regimental Combat Team 5, shows an Iraqi Army soldier the sights on his service rifle Nov. 6 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Kurek, along with other Marines from RCT-5, served as an instructor during a 12-day evolution of advanced infantry training for Iraqi soldiers. The Iraqi Army soldiers were trying to become part of an elite Iraqi special forces unit. *Photo by Sgt. Michael T. Lowry*



Community

FEATURES

Community Briefs

Commissary Hours
The Commissary will have a
change of schedule for this coming
Thanksgiving Week in order to help
our Iwakuni families prepare their
noliday meals.
For the week of Nov. 23 – 29 we
are open on Monday and closed on
Thursday and Friday.
The hours for the week are as
ollows:
Nov. 23 open 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Nov. 24 open 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Nov. 25 open 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Nov. 26 open 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
THANKSGIVING CLOSED
Nov. 28 closed
Nov. 29 open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
For further information, please
contact the commissary at 253-
5586 or 253-6450.
PTO Community Meeting

PTO Community Meeting

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic	
Saturday	4:30 p.m. Con
	5:30 p.m. Ma
Sunday	8:30 a.m. Ma
	9:45 a.m. Rel
Tuesday - Friday	11:30 a.m. W
Wednesday	6 p.m. Inquiry
Protestant	
Saturday	9:30 a.m. Sev
	School
	11:00 a.m.Sev
	Worship
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Sun
	Adult Bible F
	10:30 a.m. Pr
	11 a.m. Child
Wednesday	6 p.m. Awana
	6 p.m. Bible S
	Chapel)
Church of Christ	

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Latter Day Saints Weekdays 6:30 a.m

6 p.n

Teen Programs

Jewish

Friday

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 253-3371.

Thursday, Novemeber 20 at 7 p.m. in school library. Open to everyone!

Girl Scouts big movie night

Come as a troop or with your parents to watch Tinkerbell The Movie Monday, November 24, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m at the Sakura Theater. Meet troop leaders after school near the front office. We will walk to the theater together. All girls without a parent must have a permission slip. The cost is \$3.50 per person and includes movie, popcorn, drink, candy and fun patch! Non-troop members should e-mail iwakunigs@gmail.com for a registration form.

Volunteers needed

Iwakuni Girls Scouts wants you! We offer several exciting, flexible

nfession 185 185 ligious Educatior Jeekday Mass 19 Class for adults

enth-Day Adventist Sabbath

venth-Day Adventist Devine

nday School, Fellowship rotestant Service Iren's Church a (Bldg. 1104) Study (Capodanno Hall

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

6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

6 p.m. Shabbat (small chapel)

pathways through which adults can participate in Girl Scouting. Work directly or indirectly with girls on a short-term or long-term basis, you will get all the instruction, guidance, and support that you will need to fulfill the responsibilities of your volunteer role successfully as you guide girls through the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Girls Scout Hut e-mail iwakunigs@ gmail.com or call 253-6037/3035.

Become an American Red Cross Babysitting Instructor

Course will be held on December 9. From 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Cost is \$75 for certification and materials. Please contact the American Red Cross at 253-4525.

American Red Cross Babysitting Course

Dec. 6, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$40 for ages 11 and up. Call 253-4525 for more information.

Jewelery Sale Fundraiser

November 21, 2008 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Officers Club All SOFA status personnel welcome. Proceeds will benefit American Red Cross programs and Events on MCAS Iwakuni. For more information please call 253-4525

"Hometown Extravaganza" Holiday Cheer-Leading Committee sponsors the 4th annual "Hometown Extravaganza." The

show will be on Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at the Sakura Theater. Calling all performers and units/station representatives. Cash Prize to the 1st place unit. Audition schedule is Nov. 15, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Nov. 19, 4 – 6 p.m. at Matthew C. Perry High School Music Room. For specific details, call 253-6745.

Family Housing Office

The Family Housing Division is changing it's customer service hours. Starting Nov. 10, the hours will be from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Self Help will maintain its current hours, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

"Stay Connected by Reading"

The Station Library now offers a "Stay Connected by Reading" service. If you or your spouse are deployed or on TAD and don't want to miss that bedtime story for your little ones, just come to the library, select a book to read, and we will video tape you reading it. You then take the DVD home with you and it will be available for your children even when you are gone. Call the Library at 253-4607 for an appointment.

Reminders to motorcycle riders

With the camouflage uniforms going from desert to green digital, motorcycle riders are reminded to wear proper personal protective equipment. Reflective equipment is required for wear over the green digital camouflage uniform when riding a motorcycle. Toy motor scooters are not authorized for use. For more information or any question, contact Provost Marshal's Office at 253-5105.

Lost and Found

Provost Marshal's Office, Lost and Found section receives many unclaimed items. If you lose something, please contact PMO at 253-5105.

New number for Central Texas Central Texas College has a new phone number 253-3288.

Hiroshima Ice Hockey Team

Hiroshima Collectors, an ice hockey team in Hiroshima City, is now inviting players. Practice schedule: Nov. 21 (Fri.), 28 (Fri.), Dec. 3 (Wed.), 5 (Fri.), 8 (Mon.), 11 (Thu.), 15 (Mon.), 19 (Fri.), 22 (Mon.), 26 (Fri.), Jan. 5 (Mon.), 7 (Wed.), 16 (Fri.), 22 (Thu.), 26 (Mon.) Time: 9 – 11 p.m. at Hiroshima Big Wave. Age restriction: For adult team, there is no age restriction. Others: Let us know if you need protective equipment. POC: Mr. Ryotaro Morimoto

(e-mail: morimoto.ry@mazda. cojp) URL: http://www.geocities. co.jp/Athlete-Samos/8667/

Boy Scouts - 50 years of service Troop 77 would like to welcome

and invite anyone interested in joining to attend one of their weekly meetings. The meetings are every Monday, 6 – 7:30 p.m. at Bldg. 1111 (one block down from the Chapel). For more information, call Hut at 253-3505.

Fine Arts Exhibit Program

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 to the regional and national levels. For more information, call the Youth and Teen Center 253-5549.



Friday, Nov. 21, 2008

7 p.m. Changeling (R) *Premier* 10 p.m. My Best Friends Girl (R) *Premier*

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

1 p.m. High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) 4 p.m. Madagascar Escape 2 Africa (PG) *Premier*

7 p.m. My Best Friends Girl (R) 10 p.m. Changeling (R)

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

1 p.m. Madagascar Escape 2 Africa (PG) 4 p.m. My Best Friends Girl (R) 7 p.m. Changeling (R)

Monday, Nov. 24, 2008

7 p.m. Madagascar Escape 2 Africa (PG)

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008 7 p.m. The Women (PG) *Last Showing*

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008

7 p.m. Miracle at St. Anna (R) Last Showing

Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008

1 p.m. High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G 4 p.m. Igor (PG) 7 p.m. Quantom of Solace (PG-13) *Premier*



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.

CLASSIFIEDS

-New pink/white Snuzzler \$15.00

call 080-3714-8108 for more info.

Loving cats free to a good home

chipped and fixed! call ex. 2579.

-Boppy pillow with Sweet Pea slipcover \$15.00

Please e-mail me at maltosb@mac.com for pictures or

Two cats, one male (Norman) and 1 female (Oreo) free to good home, prefer to keep them together, will give food, litterbox and litter to whoever would like them!

Very loving and affectionate! Shots up to date, both

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classified link on the station Web site and open an advertisement re-

quest form. Submit the form via website or send the e-mail

to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Or you can submit in person at

• The deadline for submissions is Monday at 4:30 p.m.

• The request is effective a week. If you want to extend a

previously submitted ad for an additional week, notify

the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.

the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

-AVENT Electronic Steam Sterilizer \$35.00

Discover Japanese surfing culture, take the plunge

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"As soon as that guy cut me off it was like a red light went off," he said. If it weren't for the flight suit, it would be hard to tell he was a Marine at all and not some guy that just came off the beach.

Joshua Hackey took first place in the men's open B event at the sixth annual Iwakuni Citizen Surfing Contest in Masuda city, Shimane prefecture Nov. 2. Tadamasa "Turbo" Uemura, event

coordinator, said this was the first time an American has participated in the event.

"My goal is more or less to bring the inhabitants of Iwakuni together regardless of status," said Uemura. "In the future I would like to see more American participation."

As expected, the water was cold with Winter sneaking up, but the waves are better for surfing this time of year.

Competitors in the event had 12 minutes to perform as best they could with the three judges observing for style, ability to actually ride the wave and maneuvers performed.

"With everything, I did something extra — to make everybody laugh," said Hackey.

Growing up with a military father, Hackey began his surfing enthusiasm in Florida at 15 under the guidance of his father

"I remember it very vividly because I'm a guy and I'm paddling lying on my belly," said Hackey. "Then this girl right next to me stands up and blows right by me."

After that, surfing became a mooring in Hackey's life.

Hackey said he would go to flea markets, yard sales and anywhere he could to find used boards that he would

fix up and ride to hone his skills. Despite his exuberance for the sport,

The Iwakuni Approach Classifieds

Automobiles

1990 Pajero

Gray Mitsubishi Pajero 4-wheel drive — great for skiing trips! \$1,000. Call 253-4738 or 2972

1994 Tovota Lexus

Asking \$2,000 OBO. Great gas mileage. 10-disc CD changer. JCI runs through September 2009. Road Tax until April 2009. For more information, call 253-2203 (home) or 253-3516 (work).

1997 Honda Odyssey

Asking \$3,200 OBO. Great gas mileage. Excellent condition and runs well. JCI runs through May 2010. Road Tax until April 2009. For more information, call 253-2203 (home) or 253-3516 (work).

Mess Hall Menu MONDAY

Cream of Mushroom Soup, Creole Soup, Sauerbraten, Hot and Spicy Chicken, Fried Rice, Oven Glo Potatoes, Fried Zucchini, Calico Corn, Hot Dinner Rolls, Congo Bars, Marble Cake Double Layer, Butter Cream Frosting, Blueberry Crunch, SPECIALTY BAR: PASTA BAR

TUESDAY

Cream of Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Southern Fried Chicken, BBQ Beef Cube, Steamed Rice, Buttered Pasta, Black Eye Peas, Creole Squash, Corn Bread, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Spice Cake Double Layer, Butter cream Frosting, Lemon Meringue Pie, SPECIALTY BAR: TACO BAR

WEDNESDAY

Cream of Broccoli Soup, Vegetable Soup, Tempura Fish, Pepper Steak, Steamed Rice, Oven Glo Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Club Spinach, Brown Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Devil's Food Cake, Butter Cream Frosting, SPECIALTY BAR: BBQ

THANKSGIVING DAY

In the Southside Mess Hall from 3 p.m. — 5:30 p.m. Everyone aboard Iwakuni is invited. ComRats, family members and civilian employees pay \$6.35. Family members of E-4 and below pay \$5.35. Chicken Rice Soup, Roast Turkey, Baked Ham, Oven Roast Beef, Cornbread Dressing, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Pineapple Sauce, Brown Gravy, Chilled Cranberry Sauce, Simmered Corn, Simmered Peas w/ Mushrooms, Pumpkin Pie, Apple Pie, Pecan Pie, Assorted Breads, Assorted Candies Please note the Northside Mess Hall will be closed for Thanksgiving Day.

FRIDAY

Clam Chowder Soup, Minestrone Soup, Braised Beef and Noodles, Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Fried Cabbage, Mix Vegetables, Chicken Gravy, Dinner rolls, Banana Bread, Dutch Apple Pie, Shortbread Cookies, SPECIALTY BARS: Southside: HOTDOGS/POLISH SAUSAGE, Northside: MONGOLIAN BBQ

Miscellaneous

Nutcracker Ballerina

Great Christmas gift for your ballerina! Rotates and plays the Nutcracker Suite. Asking \$50.

For more information, call 253-3278 (work) or 090-8608-3799 (cell).

Baby items for sale

-Evenflo Aura Elite Stroller (have car-seat) — Oh So Big Design \$75.00

-Graco Snug Ride Infant Car-seat Frame \$30.00

The Provost Marshal's Office, Lost and Found section receives many unclaimed items. If you have lost something, contact PMO at 253-5105. Currently we have the following items: Keys, Watches, Electronics, Cellphones, Wallets, Bicycle helmets, Bags, Glasses , and much more.

Flu Vaccine Now Available

BHC Iwakuni



Immunization Clinic Hours of Operation Monday 0800-1130 1300-1530 Tuesday 0800-1130 1300-1530 Wednesday 0800-1130 Thursday 0800-1130 1300-1530 Friday 0800-1130 1300-1530 Tel: 253-6326 For more information on requirements or risk factors log on to: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/ vaccination/#patient

Free to all other military personnel, beneficiaries, mission critical or mission essential DOD civilians and contractors. Just bring your ID.



HIT THE WAVES





Joshua Hackey strikes a pose with his first place trophy from the men's open B competition during the Iwakuni Citizen Surfing Con-test held Nov. 2 in Masuda city. Hackey began surfing at the age of 15 while living in Florida where he took root until joining the Marine Corps allowing him the opportunity to surf the waves of Japan and experience its surfing culture. Photo courtesy of Uchiyama Hidena

Hackey realized that the prospects of becoming a professional surfer were slim.

"You gotta be realistic man — there are so many guys waking up and going surfing every day," said Hackey.

"I'm just like every other dude out there surfing — I'm just trying to have fun," he added.

As it turns out, Hackey's decision to join the military allowed him the opportunity to come to Japan and experience the surfing culture here. "The attitude about surfing is very different," said Hackey. "The Japanese

are very open about anyone in their water." Apparently surfing in America can be

a more territorial issue than just hitting the waves.

But as the day progressed and the waves began to die down during the competition, the rules became a little more flexible.

"Everyone was fighting for the good waves," said Hackey. "There was one guy I set my sights on to beat and every time I got in front of him to take it (the wave) away."

Unique to Japanese surf culture is the way they close out a solid day of surfing.

"The Japanese do something pretty cool — after the event they do a beach cleanup," said Hackey.

Just listening to the excitement in Hackey's voice describing the surf experience made it seem like something surreal.

"When you walk out there you get that initial excitement just seeing the waves,"



A Japanese surfer from the men's open A group catches a wave at a beach in Masuda city, Shimane prefecture, during the Iwakuni Citizen Surfing Contest held Nov. 2. The competition was sponsored by Tadamasa "Turbo" Uemura and was open to all Iwakuni citizens regardless of status. Photo courtesy of Uchiyama Hidenor

said Hackey.

That excitement quickly gives way to an almost paranoia and, much like riding a bike, getting the first wave done makes everything flow.

"You always want to get that first wave out of the way," said Hackey. "As soon as you catch a wave it becomes a part of you, and everything slows down."

Hackey had some advice for those wanting to break into the sport.

"Grab a piece of crap board and don't worry about messing it up," he said.

Of course, messing up the body might be the initial concern.

"Don't be afraid to ride the first few on your stomach to get a feel for it," he said. Even proficient surfers have to worry

about more than just the mechanics. "Watch out for iellvfish — I've been stung like eight times," he said. "It does hurt'

Hackey suggested his own tip of taking a bottle of vinegar out on surfing expeditions; pouring vinegar on the sting site will neutralize a lot of the pain.

And on the upside, the sting will leave a temporary scar that looks cool for the next week, he said.

Outdoor Recreation has surf boards for free rental and makes trips to Hamada Beach in the summer months.

For more information about surfing or other upcoming events contact Outdoor Recreation at 253-3822 or check the MCCS Web site www.mccsiwakuni.com. Da Fam's Derrick Peet looks to throw deep during a game against the Head Hunters Nov. 15. Da Fam played in the Turkey Bowl championship game, but couldn't come up with enough points on the board to win the tournament. Photos by Sgt. Josh Cox

Sgt. Josh Cox IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

It was a series of action-packed games involving strategic plays, brutal collisions and plenty of playful trash talking — it was the station's annual Turkey Bowl.

Intramural flag football teams from Iwakuni and Sasebo gathered to compete for a trophy, turkey dinner and bragging rights over the weekend at the Northside football field. Although the tournament's results didn't count toward the regular flag football season, it was a highly anticipated event for all involved looking to upset rival teams in a tournament environment.

The tournament was a double-elimination contest, giving losing teams a second chance to compete for the trophy. Several teams like the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Head Hunters were eliminated from the winner's bracket early, but had an opportunity to fight back in the loser's bracket.

Despite the early loss, Edward D. Black, a Head Hunters safety, was a driving force on the defense, picking several interceptions and running in for touchdowns.

'We beat ourselves — we weren't all playing

together," Black said, referencing his team's first game. "We had to come to a real groove." Height combined with size and speed was on Black's side, and proved to be a nearly unstoppable force for the Head Hunters' defense later in the tournament.

Taking ______the

The story was similar for former Eastern Michigan University free safety Devon Grooms. Grooms and Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 12's Da Fam lost one game early, but also hoped to clinch tournament victory in the loser's bracket.

"We just need to click on the offense and defense," Grooms said between games.

Grooms explained when an opportunity to make a play arose for Da Fam, the team really needed to quickly take full advantage of it. Da Fam took advantage of the Head Hunters using the click to make a comeback in the losing bracket's championship game.

They then advanced to the final championship game against Sasebo's Tortuga flag football team.

Tortuga dominated the winner's bracket, which managed to put them in the running for the championship game.

In the end, Tortuga stole the tournament glory, the trophy and the turkey in a close 20-18 battle against Grooms and Da Fam.

"Sasebo is having their own tournament that we we're invited to participate in this December," Grooms added. "We will come back with their trophy."



Edward D. Black, a Head Hunters safety, intercepts the football during a flag football game here Nov. 15. Black was a driving force on the H&HS defense.



Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12's Da Fam stretch before facing the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Head Hunters during the Turkey Bowl Nov. 15.

Edward D. Black, a Head Hunters safety, looks to the sidelines after scoring for the Head Hunters Nov. 15 during the station's annual Turkey Bowl.