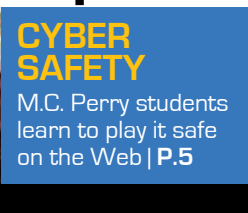


CUISINE



FEATURE



FEATURE



THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 3, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Patriot Express returns

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members will no longer have to worry about getting stuck in Tokyo, convoluted journey's through the mass transit system of Japan, lost children and pet challenges when the Patriot Express triumphantly returns to Iwakuni April 2.

Easing the journey for service members and their families, the Patriot Express will be a McDonnell Douglas DC-10 aircraft, sporting 314 seats, operated by World Airlines and will become the primary method of airline transportation for service members executing permanent change of station orders to and from the station as well as providing a relatively reliable source of space-available travel out of Iwakuni every Thursday.

For those unfamiliar, the Patriot Express is essentially a minimal stop flight from the United States to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

Departing from Seattle, the Patriot Express will stop at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo where passengers will have to disembark for a customs check.

After the customs check, passengers continuing to Iwakuni or Kadena will re-board and be dropped off at their respective stops.

The following day, the Patriot Express will return to Seattle via



LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
The torii behind the station air terminal welcomes those who pass through it to Iwakuni. On April 2, the torii will welcome back the Patriot Express and its service to Iwakuni.

the route in reverse.

"This is really going to bring predictability into how people arrive here and it's going to really ease a lot of the friction, the uncertainty and the trouble of getting to Iwakuni," said Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer. "Instead of showing up in Tokyo five hours away, you're five minutes away."

Virtually everyone who has traveled to Iwakuni since Patriot Express service here was cut in Oct. 2006 probably had a moment of fear or uneasiness during the journey, and the Patriot Express will alleviate that uncertainty.

"Having us fly directly on base was something that eased myself and my family as far as our nerves coming here because that's a long flight," said Olivia Smith, station manpower. "The last thing that you want to do is be lost in a foreign country."

"I don't think I personally could have handled being dumped off in Narita like they do now," added Jennifer Cutshall, station manpower.

Over the past couple of years, service members and their families have experienced a number of attempts by the air

SEE PLANE ON PAGE 3

Meeting discusses healthcare solutions

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Navy Capt. Kevin D. Moore, U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka and the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic commanding officer, hosted a Healthcare Consumer Council meeting for the community at the Station Chapel Jan 13.

The Branch Health Clinic hosted the meeting in an effort to hear what the community had to say regarding the healthcare services provided on the station.

Moore said the meeting allowed there to be an open dialogue that will continue and become stronger between the command and the community, ultimately allowing the command to better identify areas that can be improved upon.

"The location of Iwakuni has made for a unique experience for the people living here," said Moore. "What we have to look for is a way to improve that."

Discussed at the meeting were issues such as mental health

SEE FORUM ON PAGE 3

MWSS-171 conducts field training near Penny Lake

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 held a field exercise near Penny Lake here Jan. 12.

The exercise lasted a week and was designed to help prepare the Marines for future deployments to Korea.

The main focus of the field exercise was to practice setting up and breaking down procedures of tents and communication lines.

More than 45 Marines averaged 12-hour working days while out in the field.

Lighting, computers, generators, and a slew of equipment all had to be put into place in a timely manner.

With no problems, the site was completely ready for operations after only three days.

Breakdown of the site was completed in one afternoon. Before lunchtime the next day, all the equipment was carried

offsite.

"Exercises like these boost the efficiency of our operations," said Lance Cpl. Radcliff E. Reid, vehicle coordinator for MWSS-171. "If you don't do it, you lose it!"

A previous field exercise was held four months ago. With the exercises proving to be a success, MWSS-171 will carry on scheduling exercises like these in the future to prompt combat readiness and efficiency.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
Marines train on computers setup by MWSS-171. The recently-constructed tents provided coverage from low temperatures and high winds.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'A time for everything'

NAVY LT. JOHN Q. COMETA
DEPUTY COMMAND
CHAPLAIN

The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for everything under heaven — a time to give birth and a time to die ... a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh ... a time for war and a time for peace."

Pastoral care remains a formidable force of our Religious Ministry Team. Every day offers new opportunities and challenges to respond to the spiritual needs of our Marines and sailors.

Every day is the same, but each day is different. One Marine came to me one day with tears in

his eyes after receiving an e-mail on the death of a loved one. I spent time with him and cried with him. The next day, another sailor came to me with a beaming smile on his face. He just became a new father. I rejoiced with him. Our Lord once said, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

However, if there is one thing that will never change while we are here, it is our mission. I am encouraged to see that our Marine Corps air station is serious with our mission and training makes a big difference. Total Shield, Cobra Gold and Talon Vision, to name a significant few, are all aimed at preparing us for the challenges we may face soon. We will continue to win

our fight against terrorism if our military supremacy will continue to match with our moral and spiritual strength. The late President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "The spirit of man is more important than mere physical strength, and the spiritual fiber of a nation than its wealth." On the other hand, successes of life are also determined by our willingness to succeed. May we realize that in our day of success, there are those who have gone the extra mile and spent many days preparing to succeed.

Yes, there is a time for everything — and now is our time to be battle-ready and to execute our mission with precision and professionalism. Pastoral care services is here to ensure religious ministry promotes spiritual growth to enhance unit morale, cohesion, and operational readiness among Marines and sailors.

The Camera Guy

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

IWAKUNI APPROACH PHOTOGRAPHY COLUMNIST

Both amateur and professional cameras these days are loaded with dozens of user-friendly functions that are meant to enhance the way images look without the need for any post-processing. Somewhere down the line, marketers realized most consumers didn't want to waste time fiddling with photo-labs or any sort of tweaking and adjustment. They were more likely to buy a product smart enough to do all the work for them.

With more than 10 years of digital photographic innovation, why aren't we seeing cameras produce the quality of images we see in 1950- through 1980- editions of "National Geographic"? Well, I'll tell you. No electronic sensor can effectively reproduce a photographer's intuition and

knowledge of his craft.

Cameras produced as late as 1990 didn't include much more than a strap and manual. They also didn't cost much. Nikon's most advanced film camera in 1982, the FM2, costed about \$370. These days, it is common to buy a camera with an internal computer that calculates proper exposure, proper sensitivity, predictive focusing and face-recognition. Nikon's latest, most advanced model, the 24.5-megapixel D3x, has a street price of \$7,999.99 with no lenses. In my opinion, I'd say consumers are paying for cameras that think for themselves.

Some of the most memorable press images of the 20th century came from cameras with one button and one dial and a photographer who really knew what he was doing.

Photographers of yesteryear carried around a whole lot less equipment than today's because the craft only requires a few

essential tools. For beginner photographers, I suggest gearing up with only the necessities.

Ditch the point-and-shoot, all you need is a single-lens reflex (SLR) camera and a medium lens. Digital or film is a choice you'll have to make, but you'll end up spending a lot less money on a film camera. Some of us will love to throw money at our hobbies. "I don't care how expensive my camera is, as long as it's better than *his* camera," is a phrase heard often when dealing with high-dollar electronics. For we lance corporals in the Marine Corps, an \$8,000-camera is a little out of our price range. Equip yourself with a camera that lets you have control over the shutter speed, the aperture and the focus. Don't break the bank, either. Shop around the Information Superhighway!

For questions, responses or tips, contact Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez by sending an e-mail to kyle.ramirez@usmc.mil.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Bats' off-going CO completes final flight with squadron, gets hosed

Lt. Col. Douglas S. Mayer, commanding officer of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, stands outside his F/A-18 soaking wet after being drenched by members of the squadron.

Mayer took his last flight as head of VMFA(AW)-242 Jan. 20. Mayer has logged more than 2,200 mishap-free flight hours. He has deployed to Australia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, and Korea. Personal decorations include Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a "V" device and the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars.

Service members can get home cheap soon

PLANE FROM PAGE 1

station to reduce travel issues such as the funneling of personnel to Hiroshima and, very recently, the addition of the Marine Corps Community Services' shuttle picking up personnel arriving at the Hiroshima airport.

Despite those efforts, horror stories still occurred including personnel arriving in Shanghai, China or sleeping outside of airport terminals in November because they were lost.

"We did the best that we absolutely could with what we had, but really the right answer is to get an airplane that lands right here," said O'Halloran.

"By any metric, it costs less and you get a Marine off on the right start, that's really what you're trying to do," he added.

Besides simplifying travel for first-timers to Japan, the Patriot Express will also provide a consistent source of space available travel.

Having the Patriot Express will make it much cheaper and easier for service members

to return home.

"Honestly, if we had the Patriot Express I would have probably gone home more often than I did," said Smith. "We spent over 4,000 dollars just on plane tickets alone to get our family home."

Passengers going on leave using the Patriot Express will pay a nominal commercial airline fee, currently at \$27.40, well below a full fare ticket from Tokyo to Seattle.

Of course, once back to the United States, travelers will need to arrange a connecting flight from Seattle to their destination.

To reduce potential issues making connecting flights, Cutshall recommended booking a hotel for the planned night of arrival in Seattle and booking the connecting flight for the following day.

Now that the Patriot Express is returning it will be incumbent upon the air station residents to use it to the fullest.

"Now that it's coming back I would suggest people use it otherwise, it's going to be the same situation that it was the last time — they'll wind up losing it," said Smith.



PFC. JOHN M. RAUFMANN

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey N. Anderson (front), military policeman, provides security during a medical evacuation exercise conducted by the Provost Marshal's Office here Jan. 20. PMO conducts training to maintain effective operational readiness in a multitude of scenarios.

Healthcare meeting focuses on positive process changes

FORUM FROM PAGE 1

and healthcare providers, pediatricians, clinical staffing, and healthcare services to be provided here.

Another topic covered was the future staffing and construction of a new Family Healthcare Center for the community.

Moore said the construction of a new healthcare center is currently being planned by senior medical staffs.

We have to work out a reasonable way to have resources here for what people need — use civilian resources as possible, and then have what other kind of support that people need, said Moore.

Other options available to the community until the construction of the Family Healthcare Center were presented as possible temporary solutions.

"Naval Hospital Yokosuka does send visiting specialists here to augment the out-patient clinic," said Cmdr. William Wike, BHC officer-in-charge. "The way the community here can access that is through their primary care doctor who is one of our staff physicians."

Wike said that the specialists sent to the BHC include specialists in mental health, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology specialists, ear, nose and throat specialists, among others.

The mental health of returning service members from theater and the healthcare services provided to them and their families was another of the many topics discussed during the meeting.

Moore said they are working on ways to attract the best mental healthcare physicians available.

"We are actually looking at how we can improve our retention," said Moore. "We are putting in bonuses, and we are supervising their training."

While the subjects that were discussed covered many of the future services coming to the community, they also covered the present quality of the services and staff at the BHC.

Elizabeth Lindquist, a Matthew C. Perry Elementary School learning specialist, recounted the time her husband fell ill and needed treatment.

"The clinic here sent him over, with an interpreter, to a Japanese hospital," said Lindquist. "The interpreters from the clinic were fantastic; I don't know what we'd do without them."

Lindquist said when it came to the services the BHC provides, she's had excellent results.

"I was happy I was able to thank all the doctors, dentists, physician's assistants, nurses, interpreters, and even the pharmacists and everyone that's helped us," said Lindquist. "They are all excellent."

"The Branch Clinic here that supports Iwakuni is by far one of the best I've seen," said Harry Rush, a retired Marine and local of Iwakuni. "The doctors are wonderful, and the Dental Clinic is in a class by itself."

Rush said he likes being informed and appreciated the information passed on during the meeting.

Wike said that Moore appreciated the opportunity to meet and discuss the concerns of the community and looks forward to hosting similar events in the future.



The pasta served at the Cucina Italiano Berretto. It leaves a lingering taste on your tounge infused with garlic, cheese, spices and bacon.

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Cucina Italiano Berretto: a slice of Italy in Japan

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Hidden in a small corner of the 11th floor in the Fukuya Department Store at 9-1 Matsubara Hiroshima, rising high above the city skyline is the rustic Italian-stylized restaurant, Cucina Italiano Berretto.

Stepping past its doors into its alcove, one is immediately surrounded by the harmonized scents of sweet bell peppers and Italian spices with hints of garlic cooking on the grill.

Any feeling of agitation or apprehension the day may have given you will disappear as the hostess seats you before a window spanning a side of the restaurant with a grand view of the city of Hiroshima below and its forest-covered mountains in the distance.

While the well lit floor and low tunes of Japanese and American R&B is in slight contrast to the atmosphere the Berretto tries to present, it becomes balanced out by the low whispers the setting inspires along with the welcoming feeling the staff conveys.

The menu set at the table, which the waitress may have to interpret, reads in Japanese with a few Italian words and consists of fresh



The entrance of the Cucina Italiano Berretto. Past its doors is a relaxing atmosphere and scents of grilled spices permeating the air.

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

salads, fish, marinated meats, and cheese and spice-infused pastas.

Chicken and beer lovers might feel out of place here since the menu omits both and rather than beer offers a variety of wines that enthusiasts may find appealing.

Once your meal is ordered and drinks are set before you, your

senses are immediately teased by the scents escaping the grill with quiet sounds of sizzling meats and spices permeating the air around you.

All that's left is to enjoy the view and a quiet conversation as an attentive staff waits on you while your meal is prepared.

If you ordered the steak, once your wait is over, the server sets before you a well marinated slice of meat with slices of red and yellow bell-peppers giving color and presentation to your plate.

Though the presentation of the meal lacks some creativity, the taste more than makes up for it.

A full flavor of a smoky grill and spices invades your tongue only leading you to take another bite. Hints of garlic, peppers and unknown spices seize your senses and you are only left to enjoy the meal.

A draw back to their meals is that their small protions and full flavors leave you wanting more.

The perfect description for the cuisine at the Cucina Italiano Berretto is small but delightful servings.

You won't be disappointed with the final bill because the prices are on par with the meal and service. Prices at the Berretto range from ¥500 to ¥1500 per plate and glasses of wine range from ¥ 380 to ¥500.

Taken together the experience at the Cucina Italiano Berretto, with its meals small and humbly presented, the atmosphere and staff make it a perfect spot for a small gathering or an intimate dinner with a friend.

Internet poses threat to identity and safety of home

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI
APPROACH STAFF

With all the joys of the Internet, it is easy to forget the harms. There is nothing new about stealing and kidnapping, but there is about the way thieves and predators are going about their business.

A recent survey held by the U.S. attorney general found 10 million Americans a year fall victim to identity theft.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children studies found one in five children have been approached by online predators.

Starting in kindergarten, children at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School are learning how to protect their identity and themselves on the Internet.

"As a child, the Internet is a very exciting new world," said Celeste W. Rush, educational technologist at M.C. Perry. "We are just trying to give them the tools to stay safe."

First-grader Connor O. Jagger's feet barely touch the ground when he sits in front of the computer. He signs on by himself and starts navigating around the desktop, mumbling his movements every step of the way.

Jagger shouts, "I got an e-mail!" Upon further inspection, he deems the e-mail unsafe and deletes it.

To some, it might seem a little ridiculous to talk to a 5 year old about not opening suspicious e-mails.

In reality, this generation is more computer savvy than many could possibly imagine, only increasing the likelihood of wandering into a dangerous chatroom.

The automated e-mail Jagger received is part of

ecute right away.

Special Agent Michele T. Starostka, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Yakosuka, Japan, visits M.C Perry Elementary once a year with Click-E to remind the children of the dangers.

can do to protect their children.

Starostka lead the meeting that covered topics on passwords, releasing personal info and child protection.

Starostka was the deliverer of good and bad news.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Connor O. Jagger, a first-grade student at M.C. Perry Elementary School, deletes a suspicious email at a computer in the computer lab. It was his first day on the computers at M.C. Perry and he already knew how to log on himself.

an educational computer program specifically designed to help children grow with the Internet.

The program revolves around a central character named Click-E. The robot has quickly become a success among the elementary students. Every question he asks they respond to, and every button and mouse click he requests, they ex-

"When you post your information on the Internet, you have lost control," said Starostka. "Even if you think your myspace or facebook page is set to private, there are still ways predators and thieves can access that information."

In an effort to bring parents up to speed, M.C. Perry also held a class for parents to learn what they

The bad news — there are people on the Internet who will harm you. The good news — you can protect yourself.

Starostka's class was very concise and to the point. Her central theme was caution. Be cautious of e-mails and the information you release, be cautious of your children and family and be cautious

because what you post on the Internet could haunt you.

Parents left the class informed and reaffirmed of the rules they already enforced in their homes.

Krissy M. Cover, senior sales associate at the Marine Corps Exchange here, took matters into her own hands when she found her sibling's profile.

"When I found out my little brother had a myspace, I added him as a friend so I could check his page and make sure he's not talking to any 54-year-olds," said Cover. "It's important to me to make sure my family is safe."

Make sure you and your family are safe by following these quick tips:

- Do not share passwords or PIN numbers with anyone.
- Do not reply or click on links within e-mails or pop-up messages that ask for personal or financial information.
- Update virus-protection software on a regular basis.
- Install firewall software.
- Do not e-mail personal or financial information.
- Set the computer in an open, public area of your home.
- Do not fill out online surveys. Information unintentionally can reveal your location.
- Do not open e-mails from unknown sources.
- Install filters to protect yourself and children from unwanted content.

It's all the buzz: Boleyn wins local geography bee

LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The competitors sat motionless with no idea what the outcome of the event might be, just hoping that all of their studying over the last few weeks would prove worthwhile in the end.

As family and friends filled the rows of seats in the Matthew C. Perry High School library Jan. 14, tension filled the room. Eleven middle-school students sat anxiously in front of the audience, running through geography facts repeatedly in their heads while waiting for the local-level National Geographic Bee to kick off.

For one 8th grader, Nigel Boleyn, this event wasn't just a local geography bee. It opened a door for the possible chance to advance to win \$10,000 to \$25,000 in scholarship money.

The purpose of the geography bee is to spark students' interest in geography and increase public awareness of geography, said Joann Sellers, M.C. Perry teacher and facilitator for the National Geography Bee.

After several rounds of challenging questions, where only two wrong answers lead to elimination, Boleyn proved to be most knowledgeable of the competitors and claimed a local victory.

To qualify for the state-level bee, Boleyn must submit a written test to the National Geographic Society. One hundred highest-scoring submissions will advance.

Boleyn said he didn't expect to make it past the preliminary round, let alone win the entire event. But with a lot of studying, he hopes to continue advancing in the competition. Scholarship

money is definitely a perk of winning, but it isn't all that's motivating Boleyn.

"I want to learn about different places," said Boleyn. "And it's especially important to know geography when you're traveling so you know what to expect."

Aside from geography, he enjoys history, math and science. Outside of school, he enjoys fantasy-driven role-playing games and literature, watching "The Discovery Channel," and writing books.

Boleyn is part of the Advancement Via Individual Determination program at M.C. Perry, an in-school academic support program which places students in advanced classes to prepare them for college eligibility and success. He plans on becoming a chef or archaeologist, and winning the scholarship would help him to do that.

"He is a well-rounded student,

an awesome person and has surprising interests," said Angela Boleyn, mother and conversational English teacher for the Japanese-American Society. "All I can do is hope for the best and hope he advances."

If Boleyn is a candidate for the state-level competition, National Geographic will contact Sellers. Boleyn would have an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the oral competition scheduled for April 3. From there, winners will compete for the national title at the National Geographic Headquarters scheduled for May 19-20.

If he doesn't advance, he'll still have the glory of winning at the local level and a sense of pride and accomplishment for how far he did make it, Boleyn said. It's not all about winning. It's about learning.

Generation Hope

SPECIAL REPORT:
LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

THE PRESENT



Dr. Andre Boyer, a retired Marine once stationed here, recites Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963-"I Have a Dream" speech during a commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. Day service held at the Station Chapel here Jan. 16.



Kimberly Lumpkin plays the cello during a commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. Day service held at the Station Chapel here Jan. 16. The service, which was held at the Station Chapel, marked the 26th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Chapel service in King's honor
inspires living life abundantly

The station celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. during a special service held at the station chapel Jan 16. The service sought to revive the words spoken by King and the hope he inspired through his speeches, sermons and other non-violent activities. The service lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and featured an ensemble of guest speakers, singers and a talented cello player. Attending the special event were service members, their families and other station personnel. Sgt. Maj. David J. Wimberly, the station sergeant major, was among those who spoke at the ceremony. Wimberly gave the service's closing remarks

whereupon he stated how marked on our gravestones are two dates – one for our birth and another for our death. He also noted how in between those dates is a dash. That dash according to Wimberly encompasses all that we achieved in life. The station sergeant major urged everyone attending the service to make their dashes as big and prominent as King's by living their lives for a greater cause than their own and to aspire to reach their goals. The service marked the 26th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which was first established in 1983. On the weekend following the service, service members here were granted a 96-hour holiday in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy.



Lt. Cmdr. Denis N. Cox, Marine Aircraft Group 12 group chaplain, and other station personnel observe a moment of prayer prior to speaking at a commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. Day service held at the Station Chapel here Jan. 16. The service featured 11 speakers, four of which contributed with a musical performance.

TIMELINE A brief history of Martin Luther King Jr.

- 1929 — Born in Atlanta, Ga. Jan. 15

1951 — Receives B.D. from Crozer Theological Seminary, in Chester, Pa. in May

1954 — Becomes Minister of Ebenezer Baptist Church in October

1956 — Montgomery Bus Boycott ends with desegregation of bus system

1958 — "Stride Toward Freedom," published in September

1960 — Becomes co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. in January

1962 — Meets with President John F. Kennedy to discuss Civil Rights in October

1964 — Awarded Nobel Peace Prize in December

1965 — Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in August

1968 — Killed by a sniper at Lorraine Motel, Memphis on April 4
- 1948 — Receives B.A. from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga. in June

1953 — Marries Coretta Scott in June

1955 — Receives Ph.D. from Boston University in June

1957 — Helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with other civil rights activists

1959 — Visits India to study nonviolent tactics of Mahatmah Ghandi in February

1961 — Arrested at a prayer vigil in Albany, Ga. in December

1963 — "I Have a Dream," speech at the march on Washington in August

1965 — Leads Selma to Montgomery voting rights march

1967 — Continues opposition to the Vietnam War during a speech in Chicago in March

1983 — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday instituted

THE PAST



Martin Luther King Jr. addresses a crowd from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where he delivered his famous, "I Have a Dream," speech during the Aug. 28, 1963, march on Washington, D.C.

INSPIRATION

Service members, their families and other station personnel gathered at the commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. Day service held at the Station Chapel here Jan. 16, to honor the achievements of this great American icon. Sgt. Maj. David J. Wimberly, the station sergeant major, honored King for what he was able to achieve in his lifetime. In his life, Martin Luther King Jr. managed to transfix a generation with his words rather than with his fists. He became the talisman for racial equality in America. By the time of his death in 1968, he had become a Baptist minister, civil rights activist, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and a father

of four. He led his march on Washington with more than a quarter million people, befriended President John F. Kennedy and Mahatma Gandhi. He became the heart and soul of all minorities in America and stood up against injustice and violence. He was eventually assassinated for what he stood for. All this happened before his 40th birthday. In the end, it is men like Martin Luther King Jr. who cannot die. He is alive to us in memory as he was in flesh and blood. Every year service members observe a 96-hour holiday in his honor, school children learn of him in their textbooks and his spoken words echo in eternity.

THE FUTURE



RAMADI, Iraq — Then-senator Barack Obama exits an MV-22 Osprey during the congressional delegates visit to al Anbar Province, Iraq in July 2008. Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), transported Obama and other senators to several stops throughout the province.

Following the commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. Day service held at the Station Chapel here Jan. 16, Lt. Cmdr. Denis N. Cox, Marine Aircraft Group 12 group chaplain took a moment to express his thoughts concerning King's legacy, the hope he inspired and how that hope continues through Barack Obama's presidency. "It is a hope that lives on to this day," said Cox. "If you go to the White House and see hanging on the walls portraits of all the presidents that have held office, you'll notice how one-by-one, starting from the first to the forty-third, there is one thing in common – they are all white men." Cox alluded to the fact that this trend is about to change. "It gives us hope because it tells us that God can put a dream in a man's heart and nothing or nobody can snuff it out," he said, referring to President Barack Obama. "All you have to do is look at the portraits to see how dreams come true." Having a black man sit in the Oval Office is an achievement Martin Luther King Jr. could only dream about, but one which hope, effort and time have turned into reality.

AMERICANS CELEBRATE OBAMA’S, BIDEN’S HISTORIC



GREETING THE CROWD — (From Left) Jili Biden, Vice President-elect Joe Biden, President-elect Barack Obama, and Michelle Obama wave to the crowd during inaugural opening ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., Jan. 18. More than 5,000 men and women in uniform are providing military ceremonial support to the presidential inauguration, a tradition dating back to George Washington's 1789 inauguration.

PHOTOS



MOMENT OF SILENCE - President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden, along with Army Sgt. 1st Class Alfred Lanier, right, a tomb sentinel assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard," place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Virginia's Arlington National Cemetery during a ceremony on Jan. 18. The ceremony was one of several events leading up to Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration.



"As I take the sacred oath of the highest office in the land, I am humbled by the responsibility placed upon my shoulders, renewed by the courage and decency of the American people, and fortified by my faith in an awesome God."

*Barack Obama,
44th President of the United States of America*



TAKING THE OATH — Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States by Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts Jr. in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20. Obama's wife Michelle stands by his side.

(Left) FAIR WINDS AND FOLLWING SEAS — The U.S. Marine Corps helicopter carrying former President George W. Bush departs the U.S. Capitol Building at the conclusion of inaugural ceremonies for 44th President Barack Obama, Washington, D.C., Jan. 20.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Flu Shots/Mist Available
The Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni has now received the injectable form of the flu shot for children 36 months to 18 years old. You may receive the flu shot or flu mist at Immunizations in the Iwakuni Branch Health Clinic. Immunization hours of operation are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 to 4 p.m., and Wednesday from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Immunizations at 253-6326.

Cookies ... cookies ... cookies
Girls Scouts Cookies are here. The delicious taste of Caramel deLites, PB Patties, Shortbread, Thin Mints, PB Sandwich, Thank-A-Lot, Lemonades, and the new Reduced Fat Daisy Go Rounds can all be yours for \$3.50 a box.

Girl Scout Cookies are an icon of American culture. They're also the backbone of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the leading entrepreneurial program for girls. Proceeds from your purchase support Girl Scouts in your community. For more information, call Girl Scouts Hut at 253-6037 or 3075.

Girls Scouts wants you
We offer several exciting, flexible 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. For more information, contact Girl

Scouts Hut via e-mail: iwakunigs@gmail.com or call 253-6037 or 3035.

Calling All Girls!
Iwakuni Girl Scouts will be hosting their Annual Special Persons Dinner & Dance 2009 on Feb. 21, 5 – 7:30 p.m. at Club Iwakuni's Ballroom. This event is open to all girls enrolled in Girl Scouts on the air station. Price is \$10 per person. Non-Girl Scouts who wish to attend will need to complete a registration form and pay the \$10 Girl Scout fee. The deadline to purchase tickets will be Feb. 6. Come enjoy spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Hope to see you there! For enrollment information, call 253-2402.

Winter Koto and Taiko Drum Concert
Jan. 23, 7 p.m. at Station Chapel. Join us for a spectacular family event that is not to be missed. This is a riveting, family-friendly event. Open to all. For more information, contact Officers Spouses Club at 253-2508 or e-mail jmwoodfin@gmail.com

Housing Architectural Charrette Workshop
Jan 26 – 27, 9 a.m. – noon. Jan. 28, 2 – 4 p.m. Jan. 30, 2 – 4 p.m. at conference room, 3rd floor, Building 360 (tentative). Spouses, come help review and design new family housing for MCAS Iwakuni. The interactive workshops will be engaging and educational and will directly impact housing plans for up to 1,200 families. Please contact Facilities Department at

timothy.nelis@usmc.mil or 253-3399 to sign up.

CPR Course
Jan. 27, 5 – 10 p.m. at American Red Cross Office. This is open to everyone aboard MCAS Iwakuni. Fee is \$25. For more information, contact American Red Cross at 253-4525.

Tax center open
The Tax center inside the law center (SJA), will be opening up for service Feb. 2. No appointments will be made; all clients are walk-ins. If there are any questions regarding what Marines and sailors will be needing, please contact the law center (SJA) at 253-5591 or 5592.

Faith Baptist Church
Faith Baptist Church Iwakuni is holding special meetings on the below dates. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Faith Baptist Church at 0827-32-5331. The Guest speaker is Dr. Bobby Brown from Harrison, Tenn. and his wife, Gretchen Brown.

Wilson's 4th Annual Far East Furniture Auction
Feb. 7 at IronWorks Gym. Preview and registration goes from 1 – 2 p.m. Live auction goes from 2 – 7 p.m. All forms of payment accepted (cash, check and credit cards). Proceeds go to benefit scholarships for Iwakuni dependent spouses and M.C. Perry seniors. For more information, call Officers Spouses Club 253-2508.

2nd Annual Rummage Sale / Chili Cook-off / Silent Auction
Hosted by M.C. Perry High School PTO. Booster Club at Mac Dome on Feb. 21. Admission is free (\$15 to reserve a table to sell your items. \$5 discount if you donate an item to Silent Auction). For more information, call 253-5449 to reserve a table. This is open to all base personnel, so clean out your closets!

Sophie's Furniture Sale
Feb. 28, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Mar. 1, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at M.C. Perry School. Home delivery will be available. One-year home layaway interest free. This event is

Marriage Couples

SEE BRIEFS ON PAGE 10

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, Jan. 23, 2009
11 a.m. Twilight (PG-13)
7 p.m. Punisher: War Zone (R)
Premier
10 p.m. Gran Torino (R)
Premier

Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009
1 p.m. Bedtime Stories (PG)
4 p.m. Gran Torino (R)
Premier
7 p.m. Quantum of Solace (PG-13)
10 p.m. Punisher: War Zone (R)

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009
1 p.m. Marley and Me (PG)
4 p.m. Punisher: War Zone (R)

Monday, Jan. 26, 2009
7 p.m. Punisher: War Zone (R)

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009
7 p.m. Quantum of Solace (PG-13)
Last Showing

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009
7 p.m. Sex Drive (R)
Last Showing

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009
7 p.m. Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders
Free Admission

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

Automobiles

1999 Toyota Exiv
JCI runs until April 2010. Asking for \$1,500 OBO. New tires, CD player, A/C and heat work great. 4 door. Nice family car. Runs great. For more information, call 253-2579 (home).

1995 Mitsubishi Diamante
Four-door sedan. Strong V-6 with low miles. Metallic charcoal silver with alloy wheels, grey leather, all power, new upgraded CD player and premium speakers. JCI expires in Feb. 2010. Will trade for motorcycle. Asking for \$2,900 OBO. For more information, call 253-2356 (home).

1996 Subaru E-KK3
JCI until January 2011. Oil Changes done regularly. Engine maintenance maintained. Asking for \$2,200 OBO. Economical and fuel efficient. Road tax only 3,500 yen. Call 253-2353 or 6140.

Mess Hall Schedule

Monday
Manhattan Clam Chowder, Chicken and Rice Soup, Sauerbraten, Jerked Style Chicken, Steamed Rice, Oven Browned Potatoes, French Fried Okra, Calico Cabbage, Brown Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Coconut Raisin Cookies, Double Layer Almond Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, Whipped Topping
Specialty Bar: Pasta Bar

TUESDAY
BeefNoodleSoup, ChickenandMushroom Soup, Swiss Steak W/Gravy, Szechwan Chicken, O'Brien Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, French Fried Cauliflower, Broccoli Parmesan, Brown Gravy, Cheese Biscuit, Butterscotch Brownies, Apple Pie, Spice Cake, Buttercream Frosting
Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

WEDNESDAY
Tomato Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Sweet & Sour Pork, Yakisoba (Hamburger), Pork Fried Rice, Brussels Sprouts, Corn, Whole Kernel, Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Sweet Potato Pie, Whipped Topping , Coconut Cake
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

THUSDAY
Minestrone Soup, Cream of Broccoli Soup, Fried Chicken, Beef Stoganoff, Buttered Pasta, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Okra and Tomato Gumbo, Green Bean Southern Style, Chicken Gravy, Cheese Biscuits, Double Layer Devil's Food Cake, Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pumpkin Pie, Whipped Topping, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie
Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

FRIDAY
Beef Barley Soup, Spanish Soup, Lemon Baked Fish, El Rancho Stew, Steamed Rice, Potatoes Au Gratin, Cauliflower Combo, Black Eyed Peas, Dinner Rolls, Brown Gravy, (Apple/Cherry) Turnovers, Bread Pudding, Crisp Toffee Bars, Whipped Topping, Chocolate Pudding
Specialty Bar: Hotdog/ Polish Sausage

Miscellaneous

Televisions for sale
•27" JVC TV - \$100.
•Small TV - \$25.
Call 253-3278 (work) or 090-8608-3799 (cell) for more information.
Panasonic Global Cell Phone
Paid \$160 and asking \$75. You can set up your own contract at Softbank. Only reason I'm selling is because we are leaving Japan and heading back to the States the end of the month. Call 253-2222 (home) or 253-4093 (work) if interested.

Jobs

M.C. Perry Elementary School
M.C. Perry ES is currently accepting applications for positions in the school. If you are interested in working at the school, stop by the elementary school office for more information or to pick up an application.

BRIEFS FROM PAGE 9

SOFA status personnel only.
Proceeds will benefit the American Red Cross Community and Volunteer Programs at MCAS Iwakuni.
Volunteers are also needed for setup Feb. 27 and for the sale dates of Feb. 28 and Mar. 1.
Please call American Red Cross at 253-4525 to sign up or for additional information.

PMO LOST & FOUND

The Provost Marshal's Office lost and found section has various items that have been turned in tracking back to 2006.

Currently, we have the following items: keys, wallets with contents, jewelry, watches, U.S. Passports, cell phones, dog tags, electronics, CDs and more. If you have misplaced anything, please call PMO at 253-5105 or send an e-mail to carrie.morse@usmc.mil

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classified link on the station Web site and open an advertisement request form. Submit the form via website or send the e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Or you can submit in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.
• 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 at 253-5551.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Sgt. Josh Cox

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

This week we celebrate and welcome a new president, vice president and administration into the White House.
It's a very exciting time for Americans from all walks of life because this week republicans, democrats, the young, the old, minorities and so many others came together to celebrate a new era in American history.
I believe now is a time many Americans have dreamed of since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. toured the country promoting equality. As a nation, we are united as one in celebration of freedom and equal rights for all.
Today, we must seize the opportunity to positively influence our families, friends, children and comrades.
Politics and policy aside, we should all embrace our new president and commit to his leadership. As service members, it is our responsibility to obey the orders of the President of the United States. We all commit to this when we swear during the

oath of enlistment.
It's a new time for the military, and I predict we will see change in the coming months. America will change. Our culture and economy will go through changes and sacrifices to adapt to the future ahead. We all will probably spend less and walk more. Change is a part of life.
There will be challenging times ahead, but together we can endure. There will also be rewarding times in the months to come, especially for those who have served in the Long War. Service members have accomplished a challenge many thought impossible. Camp Fallujah, Haditha Dam and Baghdad's Green Zone are now controlled by Iraq's liberated, democratic government.
We all may not agree on every issue or policy in American politics. However, today we can all agree on the persistence of freedom, equality and unity — all of which are building blocks stabilizing the foundation of America's future success.
Editor's note — Cox is currently studying political science at the University of Maryland University College.

Show some love

Display a free message for your Valentine in the Feb. 13 edition of The Iwakuni Approach. Please limit messages to 20 words or less. This complimentary service is limited to the first 30 contributors. To register for this service, visit <http://www.iwakuni.usmc.mil>, click on news and fill out an electronic classifieds request form.

YOUTH SPORTS



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

The Rockets huddle together at the end of their first regular season game at the IronWorks Gym Jan. 18. The team is composed of 7- to 9-year-old players and is coached by Chris Schmidt, a first-year basketball coach.

2009 Youth Basketball season gets rolling, more than just fun

LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

The 2008 Youth Basketball and Cheerleading season kicked off after an opening ceremony at the IronWorks Gym here Jan. 18.
Following the ceremony, 216 basketball players and 19 cheerleaders between the ages of 3-15, including 54 Japanese players, participated in their first regular season games of the year.
The season encourages children to develop skills and promote positive character building by focusing on having fun and not stressing the need to win every game.
Youth sports are more than just having a good time and learning the game, said Naomi

Higashi, cultural exchange specialist for the Youth Sports Program here. It gives the children the opportunity to interact with Japanese children and discover the differences in culture.
Children play with and against children of a similar age and skill level and receive equal playing time. This allows the children to be more comfortable and not so afraid of making mistakes so they can focus on improving their skills.
"I've never played basketball before," said Mason Kendrick, defensive player for the Rockets. I'm 10 years old and playing on a 7- to 9-year-old team because I want to learn new skills.
The team practices once a week, said Chris Schmidt,

Rockets coach. They have a lot of teamwork and are learning the fundamentals of the game quickly, but are having fun at the same time.
Kendrick said that he was nervous about the first game, but his team has been practicing hard and the game will show how much they've come together and improved during those practices.
Aside from the children having fun, youth sports help develop good discipline, encourage physical conditioning and promote team play through teaching, training and sportsmanship.
The program is continuing to grow and develop along with the players. There are 21 teams that will compete in a total of 45 regular season games.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

A Rockets player takes a shot during their first regular season game Jan. 18 at the IronWorks Gym against the Spurs.



MINNESOTA VIKINGS CHEERLEADERS TO VISIT STATION FROM JAN. 28 TO 29 PERFORMANCE AT SAKURA THEATER JAN. 29 AT 7 P.M.

CHEERLEADERS WILL ALSO BE VISITING UNITS INDIVIDUALLY FOR MEET-AND-GREETS AND AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK IWAKUNI FOR A LIVE RADIO INTERVIEW

The air station will be conducting Exercise Total Shield 2009, a basewide readiness exercise, Jan. 30 - Feb. 6. Weapons and nuclear, biological and chemical gear will be carried around the clock.

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

**Impact to the civilian population and other units will be minimized. Call Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Training at 253-3417 for more information.

VOLUNTEER TODAY

As part of the exercise, Headquarters & Headquarters squadron is looking for 40 volunteers to participate in a noncombatant evacuation operation to Sasebo Naval Base. Only personnel with a valid military ID card may participate, and children must be at least

4-years-old and 40 pounds. The evacuation will last one day, and transportation will be covered for all participants. The deadline for sign-up is today. For more information about the NEO, call Gunnery Sgt. Tansey Olson at 253-5655.