

BANG THE DRUM

Iwakuni residents experience a night of Japanese music | P. 6,7

FEATURE



UPSET!

Stacked takes down undefeated MAG | P.11

SPORTS



IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 4, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Total Force 2009 exercise kicks off

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Exercise Total Shield 2009 began here today to test the station's ability to simultaneously support operations and defend Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni from simulated terrorist attacks.

The exercise, which is scheduled to last until Feb. 6, involves service members from different units here and additional personnel from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

While the exercise is designed to have little to no impact on the civilian community, station residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity they observe on base.

Suspicious activity related to the exercise may be reported by calling 555. Real emergencies are to be reported to 911 or 119.

The exercise will encompass training evolutions in anti-terrorism force protection, disaster response, non-combatant evacuation drills,

rules of engagement and bilateral cooperation between Japanese and American forces.

It's important for American service members to form a habitual relationship with their Japanese counterparts, said Capt. Raymond J. Scott, Exercise Total Shield 2009 project officer. Planning, coordinating and executing an exercise of this nature at least once a year, helps to overcome any communication barriers that may arise between U.S. and Japanese forces during

a bilateral operation.

Service members participating in Exercise Total Shield 2009 will be issued their weapons; however, no live ammunition will be used or issued during the exercise.

American Forces Network will broadcast continuous messages related to the exercise on the station's radio channel, AM1575.

Also, safety representatives will be present during each scenario to ensure the safety of the service members involved and all other station residents.

Pappas takes reigns as new commander of VMFA(AW)-242

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Lt. Col. Chris Pappas III assumed command of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 during a change-of-command ceremony here Jan 23.

Pappas succeeded Lt. Col. Douglas S. Mayer, who is remaining aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to serve with Marine Aircraft Group 12.

Prior to assuming command of the "Bats," or VMFA(AW)-242, Pappas served here as the Marine Aircraft Group 12 headquarters commanding officer.

Pappas earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Duke University in 1990, followed by a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. in 2005.

He also graduated from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School in 2000 and was selected that same year as the Marine Naval Flight Officer of the Year.

During his 19 years of service, Pappas has earned the Air Medal with Strike/Flight numeral five, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat V and three gold stars, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Lt. Col. Douglas S. Mayer passes on the Marine (All-Weather) Fighter Attack Squadron 242 colors to Lt. Col. Chris Pappas III during a change-of-command ceremony here Jan. 23. Pappas previously served here as the Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters commanding officer.

Top leaders unite, discuss Japan's defense in Keen Edge 2009

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Members of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force and senior station officials united here last week to participate in Exercise Keen Edge 2009.

Exercise Keen Edge is a bi-annual training exercise

conducted throughout U.S. Forces Japan and aboard other Japanese Self Defense Force installations.

"The purpose of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the United States (armed forces) and the Japanese Self Defense Force," said a member of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force participating in the

evolution.


During the exercise, senior leaders coordinated and discussed the defense of Japan within its defensive regions, known as base clusters. The clusters extend from the northernmost island of Japan to Okinawa.

"Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, (the station commanding officer),

is the coordinator for one of the base clusters," said Andrew R. Samuels, the station's anti-terrorism officer.

During the exercise, American and Japanese leaders in command of all base clusters held simultaneous meetings at their

SEE **EDGE** ON PAGE 3



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COMMANDER’S CORNER

COL. MICHAEL A. O'HALLORAN
STATION
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2009 has begun with both good and bad news. While I was disappointed to see Penn State lose (by a lot) to the University of Southern California in the Rose Bowl, the great state of Pennsylvania bounced back by getting the Steelers into the upcoming Super Bowl. I don't know if Pittsburgh or the Cardinals will win the big game, but “Super Bowl Monday” is fast becoming a tradition in WestPac, and I hope everyone enjoys the time off to enjoy it. Make sure you stop by the Sakura Theater to see the action on the big screen and get a free breakfast while you watch.

Sports events aside, the year has really got off to a great start here. Nowhere is that more evident than in the exemplary behavior of our Marines and Sailors. We have had several periods of extended liberty and

aside from minor incidents, everyone has conducted themselves as the professionals and ambassadors that you are. None of this happens by accident. Leadership, accountability and simply taking care of one another lead to these results. Force Protection comes in many varieties, and every one of us has the opportunity to make a difference — whether it's taking care of a safety concern on the flight line, riding a motorcycle responsibly, or noticing that a fellow service or family member is not quite themselves. Thanks for the attention in this regard and please keep it up!

The return of the Patriot Express to Iwakuni is more good news. The entire chain of command through Marine Corps Bases Japan and Marine Forces Pacific weighed in to bring back this important quality-of-life flight. Now we have to use it, or most certainly we will lose it again. If you are PCSing outbound, travel management

office will ticket you for the Patriot Express. You may have noticed the new passenger terminal that is rapidly nearing completion. That facility combined with the Space-A travel opportunities Patriot Express brings will greatly enhance life aboard the station.

Taking care of the base population comes in many forms. Next week, we will conduct Exercise Total Shield across the installation to test and improve our ability to respond to any number of terrorism, combat, or natural disaster scenarios. You will see Marines in full battle gear, you will hear sirens, you may be inconvenienced. All of it is necessary. Iwakuni is a great place to live — preparedness is a key enabler to keep it that way.

Thanks to everyone for your good citizenship and sense of community throughout the last year. I look forward to sharing 2009 with you aboard the best kept secret in the Marine Corps — MCAS Iwakuni.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Your Father in Heaven Above’

CHAPLAIN NORBERT KARAVA
MAG-12 DEPUTY
GROUP CHAPLAIN

Have you ever wondered why you and the overwhelming majority of people you experience need to be assured that you are basically a “good guy” on nearly a daily basis? Why is it that our need for positive affirmation and reaffirmation is endless? As a subordinate, you need to hear it from your superiors. And as a superior, if you want to run your shop smoothly, you need to give it.

One truth certainly emerges

from this bottomless appetite, or (if you like) this unending insecurity: Even if we say that we believe we are basically good, decent and respectable people, on a deeper level we do not, and perhaps cannot really believe it, even though we might have entire constellations of ribbons and medals to support us in this belief, and our parents, families, friends and coworkers assure us that we are the veritable incarnation of coolness. For, if we really, truly believed that we are basically good and decent people, we simply would not need to hear it repeated all our lives.

From this, we necessarily draw one of two conclusions: Either one: our self-worth actually is nothing more than a myth — a psychological firewall we throw up to resist our innate suicidal disposition — a silly story that unravels even as we knit it. Or two: that we need to hear that truth — the truth that we are actually worthwhile from someone else other than mom and dad, brother and sister, friends and partners, and until you do, you will never really believe it.

As for me, I prefer the second option.

Understanding and preventing cavities

Navy Lt. Sam N. Suliman
BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC

According to the American Dental Association and the California Dental Association dental caries, the formation of cavities, is the number one infectious disease of childhood in the United States.

More than half of all children in the U.S. have dental caries by age seven. By age 17, approximately 80 percent of young adults have had at least one cavity.

In the past thirty or so years, there has been remarkable progress in the reduction of tooth decay in the United States.

The keys to this reduction are understanding the disease process and prevention.

What is dental caries?

It is a disease process which causes the destruction

of teeth by acid forming bacteria found in dental plaque. Prolonged exposure to these acids may deplete the teeth of minerals such as calcium and phosphate making them weaker and potentially forming cavities.

Fermentable sugars such as sucrose, found in candy and soda, are the driving force for acid production.

The most reliable and predictable way to reduce cavities is prevention.

Prevention can be achieved by depriving the oral bacteria from these fermentable sugars.

To deprive the oral bacteria, take the following measures: brush and floss daily, eat a balanced diet, minimize sugar intake, and get regular dental check-ups.

For more information about achieving optimal oral health, please contact your dental health care providers at the dental clinic.

Keen Edge 2009 improves bilateral tactics, strategies

EDGE FROM PAGE 1

respective installations. They communicated with each other via the Japanese Joint Staff in Tokyo and the U.S. Forces Japan headquarters at Yokota Air Base. The headquarters are responsible for overseeing and analyzing all contingencies within Japan as well as providing guidance to the base clusters during Exercise Keen Edge.

“It’s vital that we keep continuous communications to identify concerns within the other clusters that may affect our cluster,” said Samuels. “Keen Edge is a way for us to practice information flow and dissemination on a large scale as well as maintaining constant communication, coordination and contingency planning.”

American and Japanese commanders strive to perfect contingency planning, command and control and dissemination throughout the year and between each Keen Edge exercise.

“We do this to enhance our operational efficiency and bilateral operations,” said Samuels. “What we learned in this exercise has reinforced our strong commitment to work together with our host nation’s brothers-in-arms and our ability to provide a strong defense for the county of Japan.”

Taxes done online free

Bonnie Lewis

IWAKUNI APPROACH FINANCIAL COLUMNIST

Military OneSource is once again providing free tax consultation and filing services to military service members and their families during the tax season. As in the three previous years, users will have free online access to the TaxCut Basic program.

Brief program overview:

- Users must register for Military OneSource and log on to the site for access to the online TaxCut program.
- Those eligible for the program are active duty, Guard and Reserve, spouses and dependent children (authorized in DEERS), family members handling the affairs of a deployed service member, DoD employees working in support roles, and severely injured service members or family members handling their affairs.
- Participants can e-file one state resident return for each federal return that they e-file with TaxCut Online.

Bats’ safety efforts rewarded

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine (All Weather) Fighter Attack Squadron 242 received the 2008 Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award in front of the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar here Jan. 22.

During a squadron formation, Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Fox, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, presented the award and citation for operational excellence and exemplary safety contributions from Jan. 1 to Dec. 30, 2008.

The CNO Aviation Safety Award is awarded to Navy and Marine Corps aviation units that exemplify operational risk management, quality maintenance practices and outstanding airmanship.

The purpose of the award, as stated by the chief of naval operations, is to recognize commands with an outstanding safety record and who have aggressive safety programs in place that contribute to the general benefit of Naval Aviation.

Capt. Jason Zellej, VMFA(AW)-242 adjutant, said this award proves and validates the efforts the Marines make to ensure the aircraft are safe for pilots to fly.

The VMFA(AW)-242 Squadron received the same award in 2007 along with the Robert M. Hanson Trophy, which is awarded to the Marine fighter attack squadron of the year. The CNO Safety



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Brig. Gen. Raymond L. Fox (right), 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, presents Lt. Col. Douglas S. Mayer, former commanding officer of Marine (All Weather) Fighter Attack Squadron 242, with the 2008 Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award in front of the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar here Jan. 22. VMFA(AW)-242 was awarded the CNO safety award for operational excellence and exemplary safety contributions from Jan. 1 to Dec. 30, 2008.

Award has been awarded to the VMFA(AW)-242 a total of eight times to date.

“We set the standard,” said Zellej.

Winning the award also sets the standard for VMFA(AW)-242 and for new Marines who join the squadron, added Zellej.

Squadron VMFA(AW)-242 won the award through the outstanding leadership of the staff non-commissioned officers and the dedicated attitude of the

Marines to find out how to do things and do them right Zellej said.

“It took attention to detail and everyone looking out for each other,” said Lance Cpl. Jose Castillo, VMFA(AW)-242 avionics technician.

Castillo said they have to keep doing what they are doing.

“Like my commanding officer says, there’s only one way to do things, the right way,” said Castillo.

40 years of faithful service awarded



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

The community celebrates Helen K. Marquez's retirement during a ceremony at Marine Memorial Chapel on Jan. 22. Marquez (center) has worked in federal services since 1969. She moved to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in 2002 where she became the deputy comptroller for the command. Marquez will be moving back to the United States where she will reunite with her family.

AFN to air Super Bowl commercials Feb. 2

STAFF SGT. DUSTIN A. DUNK
AMERICAN FORCES
NETWORK

It is that time of year again; the time when households around the world clear their Sunday afternoon to sit down and enjoy the Super Bowl. Many of those are tuning in to watch football, but there are also many viewers who are more interested in the commercials.

In Iwakuni, many who are looking forward to seeing the commercials may wonder, “Will AFN be airing the commercials during the Super Bowl?” The simple answer is, “No.”

To understand why we will not be able to watch the commercials, viewers need to understand how AFN acquirers programming.

AFN is able to provide entertainment to the troops

in overseas locations at little or no cost to the government because it is considered a non-commercial, pro-bono activity.

In place of the commercials, AFN produces and airs spots to disseminate Department of Defense, regional and local information. By doing so, AFN avoids the royalty costs of airing commercials, and provides local commanders a means to inform the troops via radio and television.

According to Mr. Lawrence A. Sichter, Chief, Affiliate Relations Division, American Forces Network, “Airing the commercial version of the Super Bowl places AFN in direct violation with the cornerstone of our existence: the long-standing agreements with the federations, guilds and unions that permit our use of their programming as

long as those programs remain commercial free.”

Sichter goes on to say, “Thousands of working crafts people as well as celebrities and producers forego their well-earned residuals because AFN is not a commercial operation. This is a long-standing tradition and the future of AFN is directly related to its ability to honor these agreements. If AFN were to schedule the commercial version of the Super Bowl, it would be setting a precedent that would be impossible to defend in the face of the inevitable demands from other program providers. The result would be the cessation of AFN’s ability to provide stateside radio and television programs.”

In addition, the commercials that air during the Super Bowl, or any other program, are

licensed for North America only. All the music and talent rights are not cleared for an overseas audience. The commercials are generally available immediately after the game on various web sites.

What AFN will do this year, as we have in the past, is air a program called, “The Super Bowl’s Greatest Commercials.” This show will air at midnight, Monday, February 2, on AFN Sports Channel 7. It is a compilation of commercials that have aired during past Super Bowls.

AFN is able to air this product under a fair use doctrine. The commercials are being reviewed as individual pieces and not as commercial products.

For additional questions, feel free to contact AFN or myafn.net. Enjoy the game!

Thrift Store Report

CANDICE O’HALLORAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

2008 was a great year for the Thrift Store. With the help of a dedicated cadre of volunteers and generous contributions from throughout the air station, the Thrift Store reinvented itself with new (well, almost new) merchandise, new displays and a new attitude. The results speak for themselves: during 2008, the Thrift Store donated over \$22,000 to Marines, sailors, families, organizations and Matthew C. Perry schools. Few private organizations anywhere are able to make such a direct impact on a community.

2009 promises to be just as good. Donations continue to pour in, and the Thrift Store building (located near the chapel and Yujo Hall) will undergo a much-needed face-lift. The year ahead will also present challenges. It takes an incredible amount of time, energy, and creativity to process, display, and ultimately sell the donations. We depend on volunteers for this task and we need more! Many, many of you come to the Thrift Store to shop. Please consider coming to the Thrift Store as a volunteer. We need you. The Community needs you.

Come check us out. We are open Wednesdays and Fridays 4-7pm and the first Monday of the month or call us at 253-4711.

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless but because they’re priceless.” Join us. You will make a difference.

LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

All station service members and U.S. civilian employees were required to attend one of six “Back in the Saddle” operational pause and safety stand-down sessions Jan. 20-22 at the Sakura Theater here.

The purpose of the BITS safety stand-down was to provide semi-annual safety training to all personnel.

The training is meant to improve safety awareness while on the job, said Sean G. Kim Han, a safety specialist at the Safety Center here. Safety shouldn’t feel like a burdensome process. The Safety Center wants service members and civilians alike to learn from past incidents because they’re ultimately responsible for keeping themselves and others safe, he added.

The core topics covered during the training were ground safety guidance, personal-owned vehicle safety, motorcycle safety, and suicide and sexual assault prevention.

Caution while driving saves lives, prevents accidents

JAMES LOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Imagine being stuck in traffic, again. Your lane is running smoothly, but the opposing lane is congested and is moving like molasses. You approach your intersection and signal to turn right.

Drivers on the opposing lane are considerate and don’t block the intersection. You smile and attempt to go through it, only slowing enough to stay in control. Then it happens. A motorcyclist

moving to the head of the line appears from behind the car who graciously let you through. You would stop but you do not see him in time; the motorcyclist is now becoming intimately familiar with the hood of your car.

It may surprise you to know that these accidents are common and a result of incautious driving on both parties.

The small silhouette of a motorcyclist presents a risk demonstrated for years in the form of traffic accidents.

Sometimes we will find a motorcyclist tailgating another car. Well, not only do we find them, we hit them.

Responsibility of safe driving lies with all roadway users. As a motorcyclist, we should make ourselves visible so we don’t play peek-a-boo with car drivers. You can see them, they can’t see you.

The key point is to lose the attitude that accidents won’t happen to you and anticipate the events that have a painful result.

Fewer accidents are something we can all appreciate.

Tax season is here!

The Tax Center, Building #608 through the Staff Judge Advocate entrance, will be open for single Marines of all commands to get taxes done on a first-come, first-serve basis now through the end of tax season. Starting Feb. 3, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will be free and open to all personnel on a walk-in basis.

Hours are:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 21, 28 ONLY)



Lance Cpl. Noah Rosenthal, Provost Marshal’s Office correctional specialist at the brig here, stands outside the barbwire fencing that retains all inhabiting prisoners. His educational background and professionalism have his superiors directing him towards the officer program. Unsure, Rosenthal is also considering a career in the military’s Criminal Investigation Department.

Correctional specialist meritoriously promoted

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Lance Cpl. Noah Rosenthal, a Provost Marshal’s Office correctional specialist at the brig here, is standing, waiting anxiously. Dressed in his Bravos, he and three other Marines wait to be judged in front of a critical panel, which will decide whether or not they will move up the ranks from Lance Corporal to Corporal.

He has already proven himself to his superiors, now he must prove himself to the panel of five. This is Rosenthal’s chance to be meritoriously promoted and to officially become a non-commissioned officer.

Upon entering the room, Rosenthal snaps to attention. After reporting in to the panel of senior leadership, he is ordered to about face so the panel can inspect his uniform and overall appearance.

After the board introduces themselves, they fire a multitude of questions at Rosenthal, covering topics such as: Marine Corps history, marksmanship, customs and courtesies, close order drill, first aid and code of conduct.

Dismissing Rosenthal, the board deliberates.

The winner is based on a point scale. Education, letters of appreciation, awards, rifle

scores, bearing, physical fitness and personal appearance are all taken into consideration.

After the deliberation, the competitors enter the room, patiently waiting for the results. Announcing Rosenthal’s name, the board congratulates him on a job well done.

With the new rank of corporal comes new responsibilities. Now

to the board with an air of confidence. He displayed bearing, intelligence and knowledge. He was the total package!”

Always considering the Marines around him, Rosenthal takes every chance given to him to help others.

Only eight courses away from his Bachelors of Science, Rosenthal tutors Marines in

“More than anything, I enjoy the fact that I am a part of an organization that is rich in history, dedicated to its values and provides its members with a sense of purpose on a daily basis.”
— Lance Cpl. Noah Rosenthal

he is expected to become more of a mentor and role model, a quality and ability his superiors say Rosenthal already possesses.

His intelligence and professional demeanor have catapulted him above the rest.

In fact, it was his presence that struck a cord with the board members in the first place.

“He was the total package,” said Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major and senior member of the board.

“You have to present yourself

college algebra, criminal law and U.S. history.

“When I needed help in algebra, Lance Cpl. Rosenthal was right there to tutor me,” said Staff Sgt. William Fuller, a PMO brig officer here.

“I can trust him to do anything,” said Fuller, who has suggested Rosenthal take the course of becoming an officer.

Those are big compliments coming from a Marine who Rosenthal credits as being one of his biggest influences.

“He has been instrumental in

building my (service record book) as well as giving me the tools and direction to develop a successful career,” said Rosenthal of Fuller’s support.

“The Marine Corps has been both exciting and educational,” said Rosenthal, reflecting back on his career thus far in the military. “I have been to many schools and given more opportunities in the past two years of my enlistment than in all the time I spent in the civilian world. I appreciate all the time and energy my leaders have spent molding me into a good Marine. More than anything, I enjoy the fact that I am a part of an organization that is rich in history, dedicated to its values and provides its members with a sense of purpose on a daily basis.”

In the future, Rosenthal is unsure of whether he wants to take the officer route or a career in the military’s Criminal Investigation Department.

As for now, he plans to extend his stay in Iwakuni one more year in order to experience more of the Japanese culture and climb Mount Fuji for a second time.

“He is educated and levelheaded enough that he can do whatever he puts his mind to,” Fuller said. “His discipline will carry him through every task at hand.”



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Performers from a Taiko group beat rhythms from their drums during a Japanese music concert held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Jan. 23. The drum was a traditional method of leading and maneuvering men into battle during times of feudal Japan.

KOTO DRUM CONCERT

Performance gives community up-beat view of local culture

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In ancient Japan, the thundering rhythm of drums led warriors to battle and filled their enemies' hearts with fear.

By contrast, at the hands of ladies, priests and noblemen, the calming and at times agitated notes of the stringed koto, a 13 stringed instrument, and shamisen, a three stringed instrument, filled Japanese court-life and well-to-do homes.

With the hard rolling thunder of drums playing in harmony and accord with the soft dream-like notes of the koto, shamisen and Japanese flute, the ancient sounds of Japan were set free from the Marine Memorial Chapel here for one night.

The Officers Spouses' Club hosted a Japanese music concert at the station chapel to share some of Japan's musical culture with the station community Jan. 23.

Various professional Japanese musicians eagerly volunteered their time and effort to share their art and culture with the Iwakuni community.

Jeanne Woodfin, OSC publicity chair, said the music is very unique to Japanese culture. "Any time that we enrich our knowledge of the culture that we are blending in with, we grow," Woodfin said.

Woodfin said the event bridged a gap between two cultures and presented an opportunity to learn how to be good ambassadors.

Donned in traditional Japanese attire, the evening started out with a melodic presentation by the Wada-Ju-Kai musical group.

Their first act consisted of thundering Japanese drum pounding alongside intense, graceful sounds of the stringed kotos and shamisens, with the resonance of three bamboo flutes uniting the grace of all their notes together.

Chihara Cho, a player of the koto and shamisen for more than 30 years, "I was

very nervous as I played before tonight's audience."

Cho said she believes music encourages people, and provides a healing power and strength she hoped she was able to give the community that evening.

To prepare for the evening, she practiced two to three hours a day since she was asked to perform at the event.

With those thoughts in mind Cho took the stage with the rest of the Wada-Ju-Kai musical group to share their talents and culture with the audience.

"It was so beautiful," said Natali Godoy, event spectator. "I enjoyed it very much."

As the evening progressed, another act that took the stage was a Taiko drum group whose rhythms filled the chapel with pounding notes bouncing off the walls.

At times the slow and steady rhythm of the drums would rise to a thunder and roar which would easily take the audience back to ancient Japan as the musicians stood clad in traditional Japanese garments.

As the show progressed, the Taiko group opened the floor to any audience member wanting to try out their instruments for a hands-on cultural experience.

The hands of eager audience members quickly shot into the air while some swiftly made their way onstage for an opportunity to pound away at the drums.

"I was looking forward to the drums," said Godoy.

"My kids seemed to enjoy it too — they are young but they appreciated it," she added.

To bring the concert to a close the musicians humbly bowed in response to the loud applause the audience members gave them.

Godoy said she was glad she was able to expose her children to the traditions of another culture and she would gladly attend another showing.

The music ended for the night, but for some of the people who attended the show that evening ... the experience of something new and different remained.



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Event spectators give a try at playing traditional Japanese drums during a Japanese music concert held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Jan. 23. The event was hosted by the Officers Spouses' Club in an effort to share the Japanese culture with the Iwakuni station community.



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

A performer from the Wada-Ju-Kai musical group plays a traditional bamboo flute, called a shakuhachi, during a Japanese music concert held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Jan. 23. The name shakuhachi translates into 1.8 foot, referring to the length of the instrument.



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Two performers of the Wada-Ju-Kai musical group play traditional koto instruments during a Japanese music concert held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Jan. 23. The koto is an instrument approximately 170 centimeters long with 13 strings traditionally used by women, noblemen and priests.



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Two performers of the Wada-Ju-Kai musical group play traditional koto instruments during a Japanese music concert held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Jan. 23. The koto is an instrument approximately 170 centimeters long with 13 strings traditionally used by women, noblemen and priests.

Obama vows not to waver in America’s defense

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON –

President Barack Obama pledged a “prudent use” of military power as the nation works toward “ushering in a new era of peace” in his inaugural address to the nation Jan 20.

“Our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint,” he said from the west side of the Capitol here after taking the oath of office as the 44th president.

An estimated 2 million people crowded the National Mall and surrounding area to hear his address.

The use of these principles will allow America to develop greater understanding of other nations and greater cooperation against common threats from them, he said.

“We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan,” Obama said. “With old friends and former foes, we’ll work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet.”

Obama said Americans will not apologize for their way of life, nor waver in its defense. “And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you,” he said.

America is a country of doers and risk-takers; it is an immigrant country where each generation worked hard to provide for the next, he said.

“For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life,” Obama said. “For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West, endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.

“For us, they fought and died in places like Concord and Gettysburg, Normandy and Khe Sahn,” he continued. “Time and again, these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions, greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.”

Americans today must continue this journey, he said. It is time for hard decisions and a time of change. “Our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions, that time has surely passed,” he said. “Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.”

Obama rejected the idea that the nation has to choose between its safety and its ideals. “Our Founding Fathers — faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine — drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience’s sake.”

In the United States, all languages are spoken, all religions are practiced, and all good people are welcomed, he said. “And because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace,” he said.

Obama reached out to the nations of the world in his speech.

He told them that America “is a friend of each nation, and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity,



WASHINGTON – 44th President Barack Obama waves to the crowd at the conclusion of his inaugural address Jan. 20.

and that we are ready to lead once more.”

He also spoke to the Muslim world, saying America seeks a new way forward, based on mutual interest and respect.

“As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains,” the president said. “They have something to tell us, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington [National Cemetery] whisper

“And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.”

Barack Obama

44th President of the United States

through the ages. We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves.”

He called on all Americans to shoulder that burden of service.

He said it is the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies.

“Greatness is never a given. It must be earned,” he said. “Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted — for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame.”

The faith and determination of Americans

can serve the nation well in a time rife with challenges.

“Our nation is at war against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred,” the president said. “Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age.”

Americans have lost their homes, their jobs, their businesses, and health care is too costly, he said.

Schools are failing too many, and the American energy policy plays into the hands of the nation’s enemies.

“These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics,” he said.

These are disturbing, but more disturbing is a sapping of confidence and the fear that with this decline the next generation must lower its sights, he said.

“Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real,” the president said. “They are serious, and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America: They will be met.”

While the challenges of this age are new, the values which have seen the country through in the past will best serve the nation, Obama said. “Honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism — these things are old, but these things are true,” he said.

America must return to these truths, he said. “What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task,” Obama said.

“This is the price and the promise of citizenship,” he said. “This is the source of our confidence, the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.”

If Americans seize this responsibility, then the challenges will be surmounted, he said.

“Let it be said by our children’s children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God’s grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations,” Obama said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tax center open

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

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 Wednesdays from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Immunizations at 253-6326.

Iwakuni 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 email: iwakunigs@gmail.com or call 253-6037 or 3035.

M.C. Perry School stress-relief session

Jan. 31, 10 a.m. – noon,

at M.C. Perry Elementary School, room 113 (Elementary school computer lab). Families of M.C. Perry students with deployed parents, please come to the M.C. Perry School’s stress-relief Saturday session. Parents and students are invited to attend! Learn about:

- The magic of massage
- How to prepare for deployment
- How to better cope during a deployment
- How to prepare for a loved one’s return communication strategies
- How to deal with fears and concerns and much, much more!

For more information, contact M.C. Perry School at 253-5516 or susan.strasner@pac.dodea.edu.

Faith Baptist Church Iwakuni

Faith Baptist Church Iwakuni is holding special meetings from Feb. 1-11. 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.

Married Couples Communication Skills Seminar

Feb. 7, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Capodanno Hall, Chapel. The Married Couples Communication Seminar is a training course that enhances couples communication.

This includes knowledge on, handling conflict, solving problems and making

decisions. It will help develop the knowledge, attitudes, expectations and characteristics that are important to creating a satisfying marriage. Child care on site and lunch are provided. Register by calling the station chaplains’ office at 253-3371. Deadline is close of business Feb. 4.

Wilson’s 4th Annual Far East Furniture Auction

Feb. 7 at IronWorks Gym. Preview and registration goes from 1 – 2 p.m. The 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. Adult only. For more information, call Officers Spouses Club 253-2508.

Sweet Heart Dance 2009

Feb. 7, at Iwakuni Ballroom, cocktails starts at 7 p.m., show time starts at 8 p.m. Come and enjoy the evening in style! Sponsored by Genesis Lodge #89. Costs are \$20 for singles, \$25 for couples. Attire is dress to impress (semi-formal). Heavy Hors d’oeuvres will be served. For tickets, call 080-3874-8055 (cell) or 253-5464 (work).

Love Languages

Feb. 21, 8:30 a.m. – 3p.m. at the station chapel. Learn the love language you speak and learn the love language of your fiancée or your spouse. This is open to all adults. Register by close of business Feb. 18. Child care and lunch are provided. To sign up, please call the Station Chapel at 253-3371.

2nd Annual Rummage Sale, Chili Cook-off and 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!

Free Child Developmental Screenings

Feb. 23 and 24, at M.C. Perry Elementary School, Bldg 553. This is a joint event sponsored by Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) and M.C. Perry Elementary School (DoDDS) to identify strengths and concerns in a young child’s development. We will be providing a free screening for children from age 4 months to 5 years. We will evaluate motor, language, problem solving, social and behavior skills and provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions about their children’s development. Call EDIS at 253-4562 to make an appointment. Walk-ins will be taken too!

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 Cafeteria. Home delivery will be available. 1-year home layaway interest is free. This event is open to SOFA status personnel only. Proceeds are benefit to the American Red Cross Community and Volunteer Programs at MCAS Iwakuni. Volunteers are also needed for set up 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.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, Jan. 30, 2009

7 p.m. Nothing Like The Holidays (PG-13)

Premier

10 p.m. The Boy In Striped Pajamas (PG-13)

Premier

Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009

1 p.m. Twilight (PG-13)

4 p.m. Nothing Like The Holidays (PG-13)

7 p.m. The Boy In Striped Pajamas (PG-13)

10 p.m. Gran Torino (R)

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009

1 p.m. Four Christmases (PG-13)

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

4 p.m. The Boy In Striped Pajamas (PG-13)

7 p.m. Nothing Like The Holidays (PG-13)

Monday, Feb. 2, 2009

7 p.m. Transporter 3 (PG-13)

Last Showing

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009

7 p.m. Soul Men (R) Last Showing

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009

7 p.m. Twilight (PG-13)

Last Showing

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009

7 p.m. Valkyrie (PG-13)

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1998 Mitsubishi RVR
120,000 km (75,000 miles). JCI runs until 2011. A/C and heater work well. Front tires replaced last year. Asking \$3,400. Call 253-4408 (work) during day time or 0827-38-3155 (cell) during evening.

1995 Mitsubishi Diamante
This Diamante is the cleanest inexpensive four-door sedan on the local market. Smooth V-6 w/ low miles. Metallic charcoal silver w/ alloy wheels, grey leather, full power, new upgraded CD player and speakers. JCI expires in Feb. 2010. Seller will consider trade for a motorcycle. Car is comfortably priced at \$2,900 – OBO. For more information, call Josh at 253-2356 (home).

Miscellaneous

Items for sale

- Whirlpool washer and dryer - \$200
- Two Leapsters including five games each with cases - \$50 each
- Fast and Furious Franchise Collection (2 movies) - \$5
- Char-Broil grill with extras (make offer)
- Pink Razor three wheel scooter \$15 OBO
- Two wood three drawer dressers (make offer)
- Men's size 11 Crocs and two pairs of other shoes \$20

Contact 080-3474-8856 (cell) or potwic@gmail.com (e-mail).

Mess Hall Schedule

Monday
Bean with bacon soup, shrimp gumbo soup, Caribbean flounder, country style steak, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, hush puppies, broccoli combo, wax beans, dinner rolls, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake with butter cream frosting, banana cream pudding
Specialty Bar: Hot dog / Polish sausage

Tuesday
Tomato soup, vegetable soup, lasagna, roast pork, au gratin potatoes, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, toasted garlic bread, cream gravy, cherry pie, Boston cream pie, oatmeal raisin cookies
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday
French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, baked tuna noodles, breaded pork chop creole, garlic roasted potatoes, carrots, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, mushroom gravy, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie, devil's food cake with butter cream frosting
Specialty bar: Barbeque

Thursday
Manhattan clam chowder, split pea soup, chicken parmesan, Italian sausage, buttered pasta, oven browned potatoes, eggplant parmesan, cauliflower gumbo, alfredo sauce, marinara sauce, garlic bread, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake with whipped topping, banana cream pie
Specialty bar: Deli sandwich

Friday
Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, southern style fried catfish, chicken cacciatore, french fried cauliflower, steamed rice, candied sweet potatoes, southern style greens, jalapeno corn bread, cream gravy, coconut raisin drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake with butter cream frosting, chocolate cream pie
Specialty bar: Mongolian

KNIFE LAWS

The Provost Marshal's Office encourages all SOFA status personnel to comply with Japan's off-base knife laws. When exiting Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, please be sure to leave any knives on base safely in your quarters.

The Provost Marshal discourages all SOFA members from carrying any type of pocket knife off-base. The following types of blades are prohibited: double-edged knives such as daggers with blades longer than 2.2 inches; spears, single-edge knives and swords with blades longer than 6 inches and switchblades that open 45 degrees or more and have blades longer than 2.2 inches. For more information please contact PMO's Crime Prevention office at 253-5105 or visit our Web site on the intranet at <https://intranet.iwakuni.nmci.usmc.mil/PMO/Default/Default.htm>, and look under knife regulations in Japan.

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 Web site, 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 for one week. If you want to extend a previously submitted ad for an additional week, notify the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

MC PERRY'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT “Q” AND “A”

Contributed

M.C. PERRY SCHOOLS STAFF

One of the questions that school principals and superintendents regularly are asked to deal with all those “days off” that the teachers have.

Like many other professions, including the military, our teachers are regularly engaged in staff and professional development sessions.

Each school has a designated number of days that are mandated for staff and professional development, and principals determine the best dates for these sessions to take place.

In our complex we have tried this year to coordinate the use of these days in order to minimize the impact on the community.

To better serve our concerned stakeholders, below are some answers to common questions regarding our professional development days.

Q: Why do teachers need this kind of training?

A: This type of training gives our teachers a chance to share their expertise with each other and to learn and work together in order to continue to give our students the opportunities to experience the highest levels of student achievement.

This includes focusing on our school Mission Statement and Continuous School Improvement (CSI) community goals of Balanced Literacy and Inquiry Across the Curriculum to drive professional development opportunities.

These full day and half day sessions give

our teachers a chance to sit down together, learn new information and share strategies and activities that work in their classrooms.

Q: May I attend?

A: Yes. We welcome community participation by all stakeholders in any of our staff development sessions.

Childcare is not provided and children cannot attend.

Q: What are some topics teachers have been addressing at these sessions this school year?

A:

- Continuous School Improvement initiatives
- Learning Communities
- Data Analysis/graphing
- Language Support Services
- Learning Impaired support services (Autism specialist)
- Balanced Literacy
- Inquiry problem solving
- Math problem solving (concrete/abstract)
- Literacy centers and literature circles
- Technology infusion
- Website development

Q: What are the days for professional development for the remainder of the school year?

A: 1/2 day — Jan. 29, Feb. 25, Mar. 26, April 29, May 21
Full day — Feb. 2.

If you have any further questions or are interested in attending one of our development sessions, please stop by the school or contact 253-3327 for more information.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Make the Dream Real Basketball Tournament

Stacked and MAG players battle for the ball after a rebound during the Make the Dream Real Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym Jan. 20. Despite the smaller team, MAG played a strong game and kept pushing Stacked to their limits.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Stephen J. Benjamin , Stacked center, swats the ball toward Chris Schmidt, MAG forward, during the Make the Dream Real Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym Jan. 20. Stacked was knocked out early in the tournament, but the team managed to battle its way back dominating throughout the tournament and ultimately winning the championship 46-38 against the undefeated MAG team.

Stacked ends MAG's dream 46-38

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Stacked beat MAG 46-38 at the championships for Make the Dream Real basketball tournament, Jan. 20 at Iron Works gym.

The tournament kicked off Jan. 12 with eight teams, Headhunters, 171 Destroyers, CL-36 Dragons, Outlaws, Bats, Commsquad, MAG and Stacked.

Day by day, teams were knocked off the roster.

Stacked lost one game to the Outlaws, but their record still qualified them for the championships.

The tournament's lead team, MAG, made it to the final round undefeated.

“The season went great,” said Lance Cpl. Charles A. Williams, captain of MAG and passenger processor at air traffic control. “We played really hard each and every night we were on the court.”

MAG's perfect record did not mean a definitive win. Even though Stacked lost one game, their score proved to be impressive, averaging a 25-point lead.

On the night of the championships, both teams came prepared to win. Fans and referees watched the high-speed game that was full of tumbles and falls.

Players maintained military bearing, despite the referees' over-reactive calls of personal

fouls.

With the score bouncing back and forth throughout the entire championship, both spectators and players got what they came for — a competitive game.

As the game pushed forward, MAG started feeling the effects of having a smaller team. Stacked was able to maintain a high level of energy as they constantly rotated players on the bench.

“We were lacking manpower,” said Williams. “They played as a team, as a whole. They communicated really well with each other.”

Assessing the game, Williams said, “It was a fun game and great tournament to participate in.”



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

A MAG player pulls down a board during the Make the Dream Real Basketball Tournament Jan. 20.

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

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. The phone line for exercise related emergencies will be 555. **The phone line for actual emergencies will be 911 or 119.**

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