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CUISINE



THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 5, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Vikings cheerleaders say thanks



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

The Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders visit the American Forces Network Iwakuni television studio during their tour here Jan. 28. The cheerleaders met with Marines from every unit, conducted a cheerleading clinic for the Mathew C. Perry schools and youth cheerleaders and held a free performance at the Sakura Theater. Their visit was part of a 10-day Pacific tour of military installations sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment. Read the full story on page 6.

'Staying
Marine'Corps hosts survey
for career retentionLANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Enlistment is almost up and once again the Marine Corps comes knocking at the door. What will it take to get Marines to reenlist? Options may include changing military occupational specialties, duty stations or simply receiving money in the form of a large bonus.

The Marine Corps wants to know exactly what service members think.

The Marine Corps is currently holding a survey open to all enlisted Marines that have an end of active service date between Oct. 1, 2009 and Sept. 30, 2010.

The survey provides Marines the opportunity to express how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with the Marine Corps and military life in general.

In the past, the survey only targeted first-term Marines nearing the end of their initial contract. The current survey is open to all enlisted Marines with less than fourteen years of service.

"Knowing what's on the mind of Marines in these targeted areas ensures that valuable experience isn't lost on a continuous basis," said Master Sgt. Leodis Smith, station career retention specialist. "The Marine Corps wants to hear what's on these Marines' minds."

This survey is a chance to communicate to senior Marine leaders what factors and incentives keep Marines in the Corps.

"The reenlistment incentives Marines currently receive are a direct result from the Marines who took the survey two to three years ago," said Smith.

All survey answers will be kept

SEE SURVEY ON PAGE 3

Tax season begins: free services available

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Tax Center opened its doors Jan. 26 and is here to prepare and electronically file your federal and state income taxes.

Service members, Department of Defense civilians and retirees can use this free service on a walk-in basis.

After completing an initial interview, if the tax center determines it may need more time to assist those with more complex tax returns, appointments will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The Tax Center is located inside the Staff Judge Advocate Office

in Building 608.

If you're interested in using the service, you must bring your W-2s, proof of social security, bank interest statements (if applicable) and any other investment or relevant tax documents.

You must also bring your bank routing number and checking or savings account numbers if you want your tax refunds electronically deposited into those accounts.


"You're going to get an accurate return with us," said Capt. Eric R. Wimberger, the Tax Center's officer-in-charge. "Our staff is trained and certified by the IRS and knows all the credits and deductions that you may be

entitled to."

Five Marines will be available to prepare and file your income taxes Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Tax Center will also be open Saturdays beginning Feb. 7 through Feb. 28 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

People with complex tax returns, such as those who have sold stocks or own small businesses or rental properties can also use this free service to help them complete their taxes.

However, the center does not provide services for an individual who owns a company that holds properties or assets, said Wimberger. Those individuals must seek a tax professional.



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Is war ever just?’

CHAPLAIN DENIS COX
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

Most agree it is right to serve in the military. This consensus is based on the fact that the legitimacy of government sometimes requires the necessity of its use of force against evil and the responsibility of its citizens to cooperate with the legitimate power of government. The question of the degree to which people of faith should support war or serve in the military became an issue long ago. Thoughtful individuals like Augustine of Hippo stood up for reason and declared: “War should be waged reluctantly and with tears in one’s eyes.” Following Augustine, Christian leaders carefully developed a set of

standards for a “just war” based on biblical principles. Here is a summary of these principles:

War cannot be just unless all nonviolent options have been tried and have failed. Legitimate authorities, not private individuals and groups, can wage just war. Just war can be waged only in response to an injury suffered with the motivation of appropriate compensation for the wrong suffered. (In other words, an aggressive war is unjust by definition.) War can be just only if there is a reasonable degree of likelihood of victory. To shed blood in un-winnable conflicts is never just. A war can be considered just only when the peace it seeks to establish will be better than the peace that already exists. A war is just only

when violence committed against the enemy is proportional to the violence suffered at the enemy’s hands. Excessive force is never just. Just wars never target civilians. The deaths of civilians in a just war must be the unavoidable consequence of attacks on military targets.

It falls upon governments to ensure that justice reigns. When a government fails to uphold its responsibility to serve justice, it is incumbent upon other governments to enforce peace. It may seem ironic that peace must be enforced, but according to the just war theory, legitimate authorities are responsible for making sure that peace and justice are maintained. This maintenance of peace or governmental responsibility falls upon a select few individuals who are willing to support and defend its citizenry. So, the next time someone asks you if war is ever just, remember that military service sometimes requires us to serve with a tear in our eye.

The Camera Guy

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
IWAKUNI APPROACH PHOTOGRAPHY COLUMNIST

You’re deciding to throw down for your first real camera and begin documenting how your eyes observe the world. Your vision is so clear; you can see far more profound images in the simple objects that surround us.

But depending on what sort of equipment you decide on, your camera may not see all the special things you do. I’m talking about dynamic range.

Unfortunately, the idea is a more complicated than it sounds. The human eye has amazing dynamic range. Scientists and engineers still haven’t developed a device that matches its sensitivity. Basically, our eyes can see all the bright and dark areas of a scene very well — even if bright sunlight is shining into a dimly lit room. If you remember your 7th-grade science class, you remember about little photoreceptors inside our eyes called rods and cones. These 120 million or so sensors interpret light individually and can analyze each separate color and tone, sending good picture to the brain. But are our eyes really 120-megapixel cameras?

Of course not! Individual pixels processed from a digital camera are far less complex

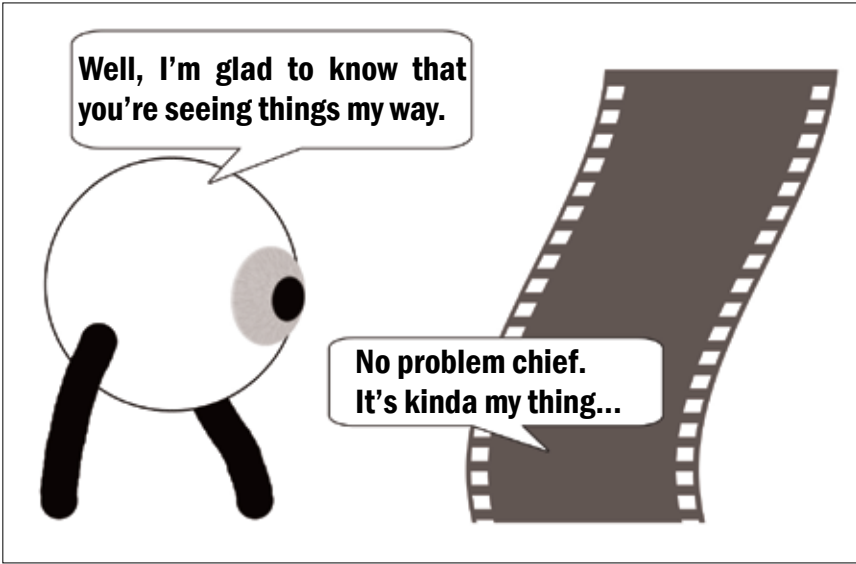


ILLUSTRATION BY LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ

than photoreceptors inside our retinas. Pixels are small, electronically-charged sections of a circuit that record one color and its intensity based on pre-determined parameters set by the operator. Human eyes are more like photographic film. Normal film is coated with silver-halide crystals that have a photochemical reaction when exposed to light. They also react to other forms of electromagnetic radiation such as infrared light. Much like rods and cones, each silver-halide crystal on a slide of film reacts to light in a different way, depending on how intense the exposure is. In English, it means film cameras are closer to emulating the way

the human eye sees light than digital cameras.

So when you’re deciding whether you should go film or digital, remember: Digital cameras offer a lot of space but produce images that do not imitate the way the human eye sees as well as film does. If you’re on a budget and don’t mind the learning curve, film cameras produce images with more life and depth.

If you make a beautiful picture with film, you probably knew what you were doing. Digital cameras already know all the technical stuff and don’t make you think if you don’t want to. The choice depends on the intended application.

Newspaper Correction

Last week’s front-page article referred to the station-wide exericse as Exercise Total Force 2009. The exercise is properly titled Exercise Total Shield 2009.

Navy, Marine Corps takes trans-continental leap in network communication capabilities

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps have successfully tested an improved network connectivity that will advance communications between deployed units and rear commands.

The test of the improved network connectivity, called the Cross Community of Interest–Enhancements solution, involved successful communication with all home resources between Navy deployed units here to several Navy bases through encrypted tunnels, a process three-and-a-half years in the works, according to station S-6 officials.

A COI is a collection of entities or interacting hosts that share a common environment. Both the Navy and Marine Corps have their own separate COI networks.

A final test report for the Cross COI-E solution testing stated that the objective for the test conducted here was to meet requirements for deployed users to be able to access Microsoft Outlook and File Share resources at their home command, as well as File Share resources located

at their host command through encrypted tunnels.

Henry Beltran, Marine Corps customer technical representative with the station S-6 department, said testing proved the Cross COI-E solution allows for Navy Unit Deployment Program squadrons to connect back to the Navy Marine Corps Internet Navy domain, allowing access to their normal NMCI resources without going through the deployment process and finally ridding the need for legacy servers.

Cross COI-E solution is an extension of NMCI, which makes the communication between deployed units and commands easier.

When Navy UDP squadrons deployed to a Marine Corps base in the past, they would have to place their computers in a deployed state and connect to legacy servers to communicate with their home command.

As of Jan. 23, because of an upgrade, there is no longer a legacy network.

If Cross COI-E solution was not implemented, there would have been no way to support a Navy UDP squadron wanting to connect with its home command,

Beltran said.

“Now it is a hundred percent no problem,” said Beltran. “They have automatic reach back to their home base like they never left. The network is just as fast as if they were sitting right at their own desk.”

The test conducted proved there is no loss in connectivity or degradation in the system, and in addition users are able to access local Marine Corps resources such as shared printers and files here.

Beltran said after proving that Navy squadrons can connect to their rear detachment from a Marine Corps base, the next step is to test a Marine Corps squadron’s connectivity capabilities from a Navy base.

“Now that we have completed the pilot program that has been proven and successful, it will be implemented on all the Marine Corps and Navy bases,” said Beltran. “We have planted the seed.”

The successful testing and implementation of Cross COI-E solution benefits the Navy and Marine Corps by providing communications in connectivity anywhere in the world, said Beltran.

Survey aims for career retention

SURVEY FROM PAGE 1

confidential.

Even if Marines are not planning on staying in the Marine Corps, you are still encouraged to take the survey.

“This is your chance to continue helping and improving the Marine Corps,” said Smith. “Future Marines will reap the benefits of the survey you take today.”

The results from the survey will directly provide the Marine Corps with more knowledge to design better retention incentives and in turn will help the Marine Corps meet future retention goals.

“It’s always good to keep experienced Marines in the Corps,” said Sgt. Kaylenne M. Holmes, assistance career retention specialist for Headquarter and Headquarters Squadron. “Those Marines are the ones that serve as teachers and role models to the new generations.”

The survey is available online at <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/ers> until March 31, 2009. For more information about the survey, contact a command career retention specialist.

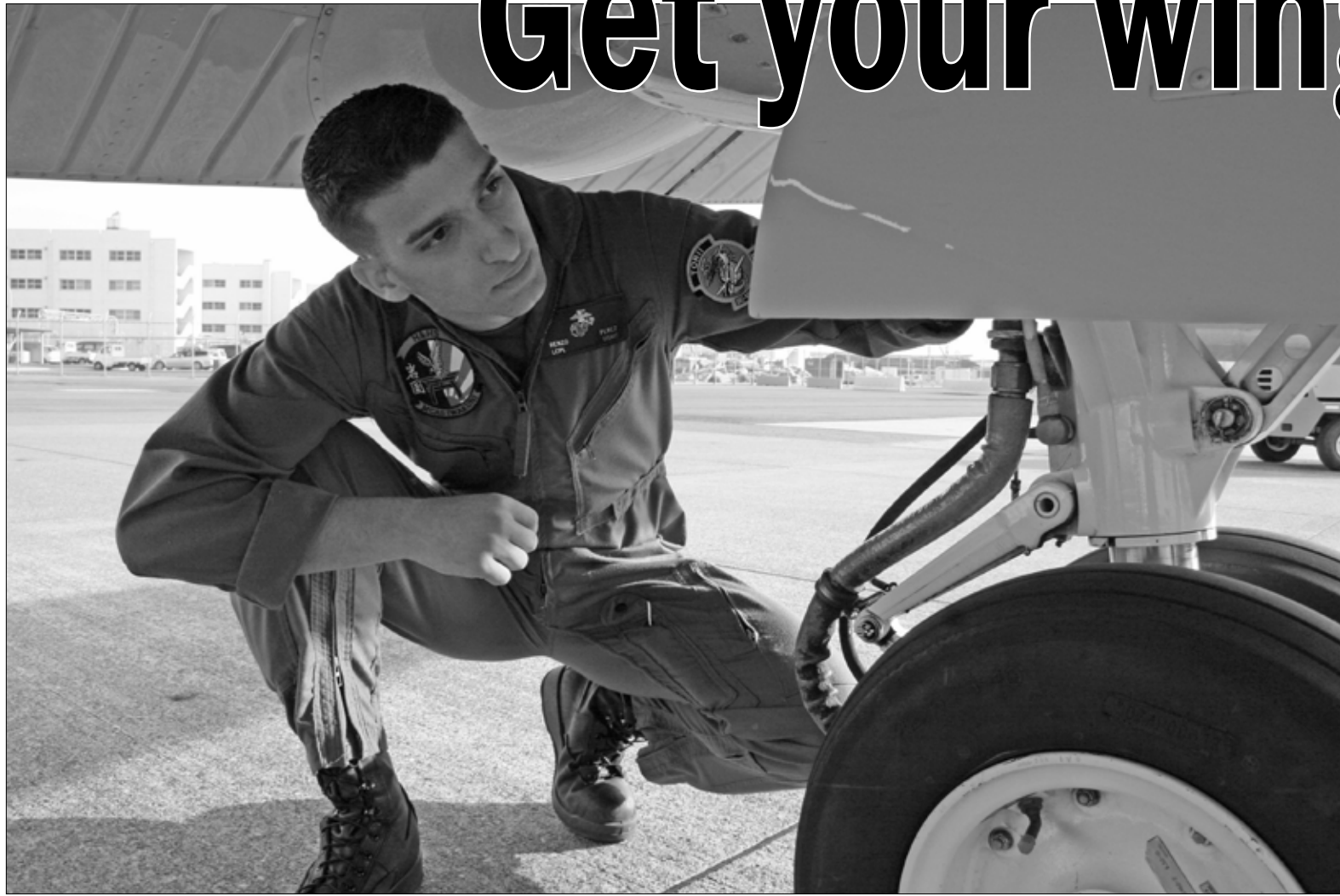
EXERCISE TOTAL SHIELD SWINGS INTO ACTION



LANCE CPL. JACQUELINE DIAZ

Marines from Installation Personnel Administration Center process service members and family members during a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation during the second day of Exercise Total Shield 2009 here. The exercise is an effort to test many functional areas of the station’s standard operating procedures and station defense with simulated terrorist attacks.

Get your wings



Lance Cpl. Renzo A. Perez, a pay and maintenance administration clerk and qualified C-12 aircrew man, conducts a routine inspection of UC-12F belonging to Marine Transport Squadron Detachment Iwakuni. Aircrewmembers are required to routinely inspect and maintain the different systems and functions aboard their aircraft.

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE

Crew chiefs assist pilots, travel the world

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors belonging to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron have the opportunity to pursue a secondary military occupational specialty as a transport aircrewman.

Transport aircrewmembers, also known as crew chiefs, are responsible for giving safety briefs to the passengers aboard a C-12 transportation aircraft while ensuring their overall safety and comfort in the air.

Crew chiefs assist the aircraft commander and co-pilot in any way possible by performing crucial tasks such as making sure the weight and balance is within standards, inspecting the aircraft and ensuring it is adequately fueled before take-off.

Those interested in becoming a C-12 transport aircrewman must have a first-class swim qualification, pass a flight physical, have at least one year left on station and undergo a competitive screening process.

"Maturity, confidence, ability to think and speak on your feet and the ability to work with officers is what we look for," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert T. McNeely, C-12 operations chief. "A quality person is someone who can do their normal job and then perform the additional tasks of being a C-12 transport aircrewman."

Transport aircrewman can expect to fly anywhere from two to three days per week, including weekends and off-days. They still belong to their parent commands and must perform the day-to-day duties of their primary MOS when not called to fly.

"You'll be working many late nights in both of your jobs," said Lance Cpl. Renzo A. Perez, a pay and maintenance administration clerk and qualified C-12 transport aircrewman. "It's all worth it though, because you'll grow as a Marine and get to travel all over the world."

From Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, transport aircrewmembers have flown around the world, stopping for sightseeing in Thailand, Philippines, France, Greece, Ireland, Iceland, India and other exotic locations.

"I collected sand from the beaches of Iwo Jima and Normandy, France," said Cpl. Jovanie Gonzalez, who has seen 18 countries while working as a C-12 transport aircrewman. "This is a great way to experience the Marine Corps and worth all the long hours and sacrifice."

Transport aircrewmembers are required to continuously train and enhance their knowledge of the C-12 aircraft and the duties they are required to perform.

Prior to flying, potential transport aircrewmembers are sent to Pensacola, Fl. or Norfolk, Va. for one week of swim training and



LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE

Gunnery Sgt. Robert T. McNeely, C-12 operations chief, reviews text book knowledge with Lance Cpl. Renzo A. Perez, a pay and maintenance administration clerk and qualified C-12 air crew chief. Air crew chiefs are required to continuously train and enhance their knowledge of the C-12 aircraft and the duties they are required to perform.

another week of ground training on the aircrafts system.

After completing the initial training process, transport aircrewmembers return to Iwakuni and receive 50 hours of on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified.

"When it comes to the job, you need to keep at it and keep your head in the books," said Gonzalez. "We're constantly being tested and evaluated 'cause if something goes wrong, it's on our shoulders to know what to do to

fix it."

Currently, three spots are available for H&HS service members interested in becoming a C-12 transport aircrewman.

Applying for the job starts with a service member's chain of command. Those interested are encouraged to speak with their department heads or training NCOs for more information.

For further information, persons interested or their sponsoring command can contact McNeely at 253-5056.

Mexican-themed meal takes chef board

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"One five," the gunnery sergeant says. "You have fifteen minutes left."

It's 10:30 a.m. and Lance Cpl. Mark Santos scurries about the southside mess hall's kitchen, attempting to finish preparing his Mexican-themed meal.

In the near vicinity his competitors, Cpl. Matthew Brown, Pfc. Gordon Hale and Theodore Hickerson weave in and about the various cooking stations, attempting to finalize their creations.

At 11 a.m., the food service specialists have placed their lunch-time treats out buffet style on their respective tables for the taste test portion of the competition.

The past day and a half has culminated into this final part of Chef of the Quarter Board for the second quarter fiscal year 2009 — one hour later, Santos, much to his surprise, was named Chef of the Quarter here Jan. 29.

"I was just like 'ahhhh' — blank mind, blank mind - I didn't know what to say," said Santos.

The shock was only natural as Santos said all the fellow competitors were great cooks with more experience.

Although the taste test represents the most public part of the competition and constitutes 150 of the 330 possible points, the challenge really began weeks earlier.

Just like any board, the mess hall managers for north and southside each selected their two best food service specialists and the process began.

All competitors had to prepare just like they would for any board, supplying their Basic Individual Records, Basic Training Records, studying food service knowledge and adjusting their uniforms.

The board was broken into five parts and began Jan. 28.

Part one required the Marines to report before a board in the service bravo uniform and be judged on reporting procedures, personal appearance, military bearing and their ability to answer food service questions.

For part two, the Marines took a 20-question test on their overall food-service knowledge.

Kicking off at 6 a.m. Jan. 29, part three judged the Marines on their preparation of the galley prior to cooking.

After their preparation was complete, the chefs took to the kitchen battlefield and were judged on their sanitation and timeliness of presentation.

Despite the competitive nature of the event, the Chef of the Quarter Board galvanized the mess hall Marines together.

"Everybody was helping out everybody," said Santos of the kitchen atmosphere during the competition. "Anybody that needed help, the other person was there helping, everything



LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

(From left to right) Pfc. Theo Hickerson, Cpl. Matthew Brown, Pfc. Gordon Hale and Lance Cpl. Mark Santos await the final results for the second-quarter fiscal year 2009 Chef of the Quarter Board here Jan. 29. Santos went on to win the board and will represent Iwakuni in the Chef of the Quarter for Marine Corps Bases Japan.



LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Lance Cpl. Mark Santos, food service specialist, offers some of his vegetable soup and refried beans to Cmdr. Stewart Clarke, tasting judge and station logistics officer, during the taste test portion of the second-quarter fiscal year 2009 Chef of the Quarter Board here Jan. 29.

was a team even though we're competing against each other."

As per the guidelines, the Marines were required to have at least one meat, starch, vegetable and pastry, and were limited to using only the Armed Forces Recipe Cards and their imaginations.

"For one, my heritage is Mexican — I love cooking Mexican food," said Santos of his decision to create a Mexican-themed meal.

As well, the decision was made easier by the cajoling of his fellow food service specialists, who had sampled his enchiladas for the Christmas dinner, he added.

Finally, after the grueling day prior and the almost five hours of preparation, every competitor's cards were on the table and

Santos came out with all five parts taken into account.

"All of them had pieces that stood out and then I just had to find which one stood out as a full package," said Cmdr. Stewart Clarke, station logistics officer. "I found one of them had more pieces that I liked and so I gave it the whole."

Santos' meal consisted of Mexican rice, beef enchiladas, refried beans with cheese, vegetable soup and carrot cake.

The competition provided all those involved to find a new appreciation for the food service specialist military occupational specialty.

"This is the chance for these young Marines to really show themselves, because what you see coming on the line is different from what they did here



LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Lance Cpl. Mark Santos, food service specialist, cuts his carrot cake into portions for plating during the second-quarter fiscal year 2009 Chef of the Quarter Board here Jan. 29. Santos chose carrot cake to compliment his Mexican-themed meal.

today," said Master Sgt. John Bass, food technician. "When one person has to put out the meal, you can see that they put their heart and soul into it. When they do it individually like this, the average person can understand exactly what goes into it and exactly how hard these Marines work in these mess halls."

Even though Santos was able to conquer the challenge here, in a way the competition has only just begun.

The gauntlet has been thrown down, and Santos must go on to Camp Kinser, Okinawa, where he will compete for Chef of Marine Corps Bases Japan March 18.

A VIKING VISIT



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

The Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders visit with Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 12 on the flight line here Jan. 29 as part of their 10-day Pacific tour. After leaving Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, the cheerleaders visited Sasebo Naval Base and Okinawa.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

Vikings Cheerleader Kara Shutz bowls during a meet and greet with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 at the Strike Zone Jan. 28.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Vikings Cheerleader Jenna Marot autographs a photograph for a Marine assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12 during a meet and greet Jan. 29. The cheerleaders met with Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marines on the flight line during their visit to show appreciation for their service.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

The Vikings Cheerleaders introduce themselves to the audience during their free performance at the Sakura Theater Jan. 29. The performance consisted of several dance combinations and audience participation. Following the performance, the cheerleaders met with fans, signed autographs and took photographs.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

Eight of the Vikings Cheerleaders pose with a motor transportation operator with Combat Logistics Company 36 during a meet and greet at CLC-36 Jan. 28. The visit here was a part of their Pacific tour sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment. While at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, the cheerleaders met with Marines from every unit, held a cheerleading clinic at IronWorks Gym, put on a free performance at the Sakura Theater and signed autographs.

Cheerleaders bring smiles, laughter, small piece of home

LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Fourteen of the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders visited the station, bringing smiles, laughter and a small piece of home to troops serving overseas Jan. 28 - 29. The visit was part of their Pacific tour sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, the official Department of Defense agency for providing entertainment to U.S. military personnel overseas. The cheerleaders spent most of their time interacting with Marines from various units,

ensuring they knew their service was recognized and greatly appreciated.

They also held a cheerleading clinic at the IronWorks Gym with the Matthew C. Perry and youth cheerleaders.

Their visit concluded with a free performance and autograph session Jan. 29 at the Sakura Theater.

"Being away from home and loved ones is a difficult part of leading a military lifestyle, and although it feels like efforts often go unrecognized, the team wants to show their support by coming

over here to let troops know they are appreciated," said Nicole Bonniwell, a Vikings Cheerleader and member of the Air National Guard.

The tour, which began Jan. 23, started in Guam, then proceeded here, and they finished their tour by visiting Sasebo Naval Base and Okinawa before returning home Tuesday.

The cheerleaders love doing the overseas tours and visiting service members, despite the cramped schedule, said Brianna Fangel, an assistant coach for the Vikings Cheerleaders.

The troops are doing so much and they deserve a break, Fangel said. They aren't told thanks enough and that's why the cheerleaders are here.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 was afforded the opportunity to get off work early and go to the bowling center to spend time with the cheerleaders to boost morale. It's great to get a break from the everyday tasks of work, said Lance Cpl. Benjamin Dysle, a motor transportation operator with MWSS-171.

The cheerleaders gave service members the chance to hear a

little about back home in the United States and brought a different point of view about what troops are doing over here, Dysle added.

There's no dispute that when the Vikings Cheerleaders are around, smiles and laughter do not follow far behind.

"We're bringing a bit of the game-day experience to every service member who is dedicating their life to their service and supporting our country," said Bonniwell. "Thank you for your service and for making us proud."

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Operation Gateway III

Logistics battalion clears way for future transports



A Marine with 2nd Platoon, Motor Transportation Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, keeps watch from his turret during a convoy halt on southern Afghanistan's Route 515 in Farah Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, during Operation Gateway III, Jan. 7.

LANCE CPL. RONALD W. STAUFFER
SPECIAL PURPOSE MARINE
AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE
AFGHANISTAN

FARAH PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines with 2nd Platoon, Motor Transportation Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, conducted multiple combat logistics patrols in support of Operation Gateway III in Farah Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Dec. 28, 2008, through Jan. 25, 2009.

The logistics combat element Marines, part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force — Afghanistan, endured more than two weeks behind their steering wheels and gun turrets in improvised explosive device-laden terrain during the initial phases of the operation. Military planners with SPMAGTF-A designed Operation Gateway III as a deliberate plan to clear southern Afghanistan's Route 515 of any existing IED and insurgent threats on the important east-west route.

The combat logisticians directly supported 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), the ground combat element of SPMAGTF-A, with the essential supplies and construction support necessary to erect three combat outposts at strategic locations along Route 515. In a limited amount of time, the three locations were successfully developed from barren land into safe havens for the 3/8 Marines occupying the area.

"Ultimately I was surprised," said Staff Sgt. Chris O. Ross, platoon sergeant. "The COPs were built quickly, and the Marines were working overtime to do it."

Ross also said the timing and coordination required to conduct the operation came together well.

Second Lt. Juliann C. Naughton, 2nd Platoon's convoy commander, explained it's shocking for the locals to wake up the next morning to see that a military outpost has appeared from nowhere during the course of the night.

"The logistical support was a success, and we delivered the materials in a timely manner," Naughton said. "We've also been interacting with the villagers and letting them know why we're here."

Fortifications including concertina wire, a parapet several feet tall and dirt-filled protective barriers ensured the Marines on the interior of the COPs were shielded from outside threats.

Multiple observation posts and several heavy and medium machine guns provided security and over-watch for the combat logisticians as they performed their craft.

The interior of the COPs offer living quarters, hygiene facilities, combat operations centers and more to accommodate its current and future residents.

The posts were strategically placed along the route to show an alliance presence, as well as enable safe travel.

"We cleared 515 to make it safer for the Marines, but also the



Lance Cpl. Eric Larrimore shaves while using a mirror on a 7-ton truck at Combat Outpost Barrow in Farah Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, during Operation Gateway III, Jan. 5.

Afghan people and to gain ground for future operations," said Lance Cpl. Kevin L. Tobler, a turret gunner with 2nd platoon.

Tobler said he was excited to contribute to the operation and felt he was doing his part, ensuring the safety of the Marines in his vehicle and those around him.

Making their first initial push down Route 515 Dec. 28, the combat logistics patrol of mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, humvees, 7-ton trucks and logistics vehicle systems made their move down the 43-kilometer-long stretch of dangerous roadway.

Naughton explained that Route 515 hadn't been traveled by the U.S. military since July 2008, and it is notorious for the IEDs buried in its dirt-packed surface.

Driving more than 290 miles on a series of interconnected asphalt roads and carving their own path into the Afghan soil of Route 515, the combat logistics patrol provided 3/8 with more than 100,000 pounds of supplies, consisting of tents, communications equipment, food, water and other provisions to supply the COPs.

Team Smasher, 3/8's route clearance and heavy weapons element, was used as a buffer between CLB-3's supply trucks and potential IEDs placed in the road. Although Smasher came into contact with multiple IEDs, 2nd platoon was able to avoid any complications due to Smasher's mutual support.

"Marines are first to fight," Naughton said. "We put ourselves at the point of friction and now have a presence. 515 is dangerous, everything we do is dangerous,

but it's a risk we take."

Naughton explained that the Marines have to ensure their own safety, as well as those around them and those they can't see. On the road, every Marine was on the alert and aware of their surroundings.

"It can be rough being on the road for long periods of time, but I love driving in the convoys and our missions," said Lance Cpl. Tyrone Young, a motor transport operator with 2nd platoon. "I feel we're helping the Afghan people and the fight against the insurgents, but mostly that we're making a difference."

Upon arrival at each coordinated destination, CLB-3 was given a 48-hour time limit to construct a security perimeter and continue building the COPs.

Once the supplies were removed from the vehicles, Support Co. Marines with CLB-3 began construction on the defensive barriers using heavy equipment to fill them and military bulldozers to create and push mounds of dirt.

Once the walls were built, tents were set in place, ground communications were established and an inner defense of mortars was set.

"The Marines were excited to be part of the operation and help out in any way possible," Ross said. "They never showed signs of slowing down."

While at COP Barrow, the Marines were attacked twice with mortar fire but were quick to respond, using radio communications, vehicle movement and 3/8's mortar fire.

"Communication at all levels," Naughton said. "The Marines know how to react, and they respond well to any situation."

Much coordinated planning was implemented by CLB-3 and 3/8 before Operation Gateway III began. Jernigan said the Marines work long days and nights, and workdays are sometimes 36 to 48 hours; however, each Marine carries their weight, whether they're driving in a truck to resupply a position, or they are operating heavy equipment.

"In CLB-3, we have Marines and sailors that do the things behind the scenes. They work all night, they work all day and they work all year round," Jernigan said. "Additionally, we've got the team at Bastion that's resetting all the maintenance parts and sending out contact teams to fix all the equipment from 3/8 and (CLB-3), so we can continue the mission."

The work of the Marines is always impressive, he said.

"(We were) a key component because we had to do a lot of the backstage work," Jernigan said. "We moved into an hostile environment, brought what we needed to survive and built three (COPs), to enable the Afghan police to move in and coordinate with the U.S. Marines to make that area safer for the local Afghans."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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

Barber shops hours
Effective Feb. 1, both the Main and Northside Barber Shops will be open noon to 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. Northside patrons will now have access to haircuts on Sundays and the Main Barber Shop's hours have been extended an additional half an hour to accommodate the large demand of services requested on that day. To offset the additional staffing hours both locations will be closed during an off-peak day of the week, with neither closed at the same time, ensuring 7-day per week hair maintenance accessibility. To this end, the Main Barber Shop will be closed on Wednesdays, while the North-Side Barber Shop will be closed on Thursdays. For more information, call at 253-4278 or 4747.

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. Adults only. For more information, call Officers Spouses Club 253-2508.

Sweet Heart Dance 2009
Feb. 7, at Iwakuni Ballroom, cocktails start 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).

Faith Baptist Church Iwakuni
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. Revival meetings Feb. 8 – 11 (every evening), 6 p.m.

CPR course
American Red Cross Courses for the month of Feb. Feb. 10 First Aid Course \$30, Feb. 11 CPR/AED adult infant and child cost \$40, Feb. 12-13 CPR INSTRUCTOR COURSE \$100 (students must be current in First Aid and CPR prior to taking the instructor course). The courses are open to everyone aboard MCAS Iwakuni, but we can only take up to 10 students per class. For more information, contact the American Red Cross at 253-4525.

Calling All Girls!
Iwakuni Girl Scouts will be hosting their Annual Special Persons Dinner and Dance 2009 on Feb. 12, 5 – 7:30

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic	
Saturday	4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession 5:30 p.m. Mass 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Sunday	11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults
Protestant	
Saturday	9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School 11:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Devine Worship
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Protestant Service 11 a.m. Children's Church 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104) 6 p.m. Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)
Church of Christ	
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Latter Day Saints	
Weekdays	6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities
Teen Programs	
	• High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12) • Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8) • HS&JR Bible Studies • Retreats • Service Projects • Missions Trip • Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring • Parent Support Group Call at 253-5183 or potwic@gmail.com.

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

p.m. at Club Iwakuni's Ballroom. This event is open to all girls enrolled in Girl Scouts on the air station. The price is \$10 per person. Non-Girl Scouts who wish to attend will need to complete a registration form and pay a \$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.

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. Childcare 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 March 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 March 1. Please call American Red Cross at 253-4525 to sign up or for additional information.

Volunteers needed
Help out the American Red Cross by donating your time at Sophie's Antique Furniture Sale. Dates/times volunteers are needed:
■ Friday Feb. 27 (5 – 9 p.m.)
■ Saturday Feb. 28 (8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 1 – 6 p.m.)
■ Sunday March 1 (10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. or 2 – 6 p.m.)
Lunch is provided. If interested, contact the American Red Cross at 253-4525 NLT Feb. 25.

Boy Scouts
Boy Scout Troop 77 is collecting United States flags that are worn, torn, faded or badly soiled and that need to be retired. The old flag's will be "retired" with the dignity and respect befitting our nation's flag. For more information, call 253-3505 or e-mail: iwakunibsatroop77@hotmail.com.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, Feb. 6, 2009 7 p.m. Cadillac Records (R) <i>Premier</i> 10 p.m. The Day The Earth Stood Still (PG-13)	<i>Last Showing</i> 4 p.m. Cadillac Records (R) 7 p.m. Punisher: War Zone (R)
Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 1 p.m. Seven Pounds (PG-13) <i>Last Showing</i> 4 p.m. Yes Man (PG-13) <i>Last Showing</i> 7 p.m. Nothing Like The Holidays (PG-13) 10 p.m. Cadillac Records (R)	Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 7 p.m. Cadillac Records (R)
Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009 1 p.m. The Tale of Despereaux (G)	Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009 7 p.m. Four Christmases (PG-13) <i>Last Showing</i>
	Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009 7 p.m. Gran Torino (R)
	Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009 7 p.m. The Boy In The Striped Pajamas (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.

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1994 Toyota Hilux
4-door, Seats five. Comes with roof racks perfect for boat, snowboards, etc. No mechanical problems in 3 years and has been well maintained. Perfect family car, JCI until May 2010. \$1,500. Call 253-2916 or 080-6612-9207 (cell).

1995 Nissan Silvia S-14
Complete interior, minus carpet and headliner, from a 1995 Nissan Silvia S-14. Excellent condition. \$200 OBO. 253-4619(w) or 7897(h)

1998 Mitsubishi RVR
White. JCI until 2011. 120,000 kilometers (75,000) miles. Front tires replaced last year. Heat and A/C work well. Price just reduced to \$2,999. Call 090-1771-0793 (during day time) or 0827-38-3155 (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

Scrapbooking Supplies for Sale!
Creative Memories, personal cutter, stickers, etc. Sizzix Sidekick Machine and tons of Sizzlits die-cuts (alphabet sets, etc.) Funky Brush, Classic Set, Window and Frame making set, Holidays, etc. Stickers, paper, die-cuts, etc. Call 253-2950 (home) or email to marinewife121606@yahoo.com for pricing information.

Items for sale
■ Whirlpool Washer and Dryer \$200
■ Two Leapsters and 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
■ Men's size 11 Crocs and two pairs of other shoes \$20
■ Older cell phone for Softbank \$10
Contact 080-3474-8856 or potwic@gmail.com

Toy kitchen for sale
Step 2 lifestyle dream kitchen, excellent condition since its only been played with and stored indoors. Originally paid \$200. \$100 OBO. For more information, call 253-2266 (home).

*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.*

Mess Hall Schedule

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

Tuesday
Minestrone Soup, Tomato Soup, Roast Fresh Ham, Shrimp Scampi, Potatoes Au Gratin, Steamed Rice, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Combo, Cheese Biscuits, Brownies, Spice Cake, Buttercream Frosting, Coconut Cream Pies

Wednesday
Chicken And Rice Soup, New England Clam Chowder, Chili Macaroni, Grilled Cheese, Tempura Fried Fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Oven Glo Potatoes, Broccoli Polonaise, Peas and Mushrooms, Dinner Rolls, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Double Layer Florida Lemon Cake, Lemon Butter Cream Frosting, Blueberry Pie

Thursday
Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream Of Mushroom Soup, Apple Glazed Corn Beef, Teriyaki Chicken, Rissole Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, Succotash, Fried Cabbage, Hot Mustard Sauce, Chicken Gravy, Cornbread, Pecan Brownies, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, Whipped Topping

Friday
Vegetable Soup, Beef Noodle Soup, Shrimp Creole, Beef Cordon Bleu, Herbed Broccoli, Lemon Baked Fish, Parsley Butter Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Carrots (Frozen), Dinner Rolls, Ginger Molasses Cookies, Double Layer German Chocolate Cake, Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pumpkin Pie, Whipped Topping

American Red Cross Wants you to know, ‘You’ve got the Power’

SUBMITTED BY
AMERICAN RED CROSS IWAKUNI

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays has come to an end it is time for us to once again focus our attention to becoming and staying “Red Cross Ready” year around. One of the best ways to do this is by enrolling in one of our upcoming classes.

During the month of February we will be offering the following classes to all SOFA status personnel. Community First Aid will be offered on Tuesday 10 February from 1700-2200 and cost \$30.00; Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED will be offered on Wednesday 11 February from 1700-2200 and cost \$ 40.00; CPR Instructor Training is a two-day course offered on Thursday February 12 and Friday February 13 from 1700-2200 each night cost is \$100.00. CPR Instructor candidates are required to possess a current community first aid and Adult, Infant, Child CPR/AED certification prior to beginning the instructor portion of the course.

Learning basic first aid and CPR/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can quite possibly mean the difference between life and death for someone suffering from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) or other medical emergency. The American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces Station on MCAS Iwakuni advises that being able to administer first aid and CPR/AED during the first few minutes of a medical emergency is crucial to the survival and recovery of a victim. Having these skills allows you to become a vital first responder when help is needed.

“The Red Cross wants the public to know that everyone has the power to save a life.

At least one person in every household and in every office should be trained and certified in first aid and CPR/AED,” says Katherine Jones, Station Manager of the MCAS Iwakuni American Red Cross. “On average, it takes emergency personnel 12 minutes to arrive on scene. For someone who is choking or has stopped breathing that may be too late. By learning simple rescue skills, you can go from a helpless bystander to a person with the ability to take control help someone during an emergency.”

First aid and CPR/AED are commonly taught to everyday people who may be the only ones able to respond during the crucial first few minutes of an accident or medical emergency. Nearly everyone is capable of learning and becoming certified in first aid and CPR/AED. Becoming trained and certified in first aid and CPR/AED gives the average person the knowledge and skills essential to lessen the effect of injury or sudden illness and helps sustain life until professional responders arrive.

Each year, roughly one million people in the United States suffer from SCA – almost half will die as a result. Being able to perform CPR or use an AED early on is crucial in preventing brain damage and will greatly increase a victim's odds for survival. First aid and CPR/AED can not only be used when SCA strikes, but can also help save victims of drowning, electrocution, accidental poisoning, suffocation and drug overdose.

To find out how you can have the power to save a life, contact the MCAS Iwakuni Red Cross at 253-4525. Remember space is limited so sign up quickly and change a life beginning with your own.

SPORTS AROUND THE CORPS



CPL. NATASHA COMBS

Sgt. Keith Buckmon, a wounded warrior who has been in a wheelchair since hit by shrapnel from an improvised explosive device in Iraq, clears his shotgun on Saturday, January 24 before exiting the new wounded warrior hunting blind recently finished with the help of Ducks Unlimited and located aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Wounded warriors recon for ducks

LANCE CPL. SKYLER TOOKER
MARINE CORPS BASE
QUANTICO

MARINE CORPS BASE
QUANTICO, Va. — Marine Corps Base Quantico teamed up with Ducks Unlimited and the Wounded Warrior Regiment to make duck hunting accessible to injured Marines.

Quantico has two new handicap accessible blinds that were recently finished with the help of Ducks Unlimited and their donation of \$14,000 worth of supplies, professional assistance and design of the wheelchair accessible ramps.

Marines from the Wounded Warrior Regiment, senior Marine leaders and a congressman tested the new blinds Saturday, January 24.

Rep. Robert J. Wittman, currently the Republican representative of Virginia's 1st Congressional District., Lt. Gen. George J. Flynn, commanding general of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Brig. Gen. Michael Regner, legislative assistant to the commandant of the Marine Corps, woke up extra early to put their duck decoys in the water before the wounded warriors showed up for the hunt.

Chief Warrant Officer 4

Bradley Garfield and Sgt. Keith Buckmon were wounded warriors selected to apply camouflage and participate in the four-hour Duck hunt.

Flynn and Garfield shared a blind during the hunt. Garfield, who was wounded in Iraq and is fully recovered, is a regular hunter of deer and other animals.

“This was my first time hunting duck, and I would like to hunt again if someone could take me because there is a lot of gear involved in duck hunting,” Garfield said.

Wittman and Buckmon, a wounded warrior who has been in a wheelchair since hit by shrapnel from an improvised explosive device in Iraq, were in the same blind sharing different stories waiting for the ducks to show up.

“It was a great experience even though we didn't get to fire the weapons,” Buckmon said.

After the hunt was over, everyone gathered at a hunting blind located near the Marine Corps University for doughnuts, coffee, to swap stories and get warm before the ceremony started.

Wittman was calling the ducks in the morning, but none ever got close enough to shoot.

He joked that his duck call



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL WALTERS

Brig. Gen. Michael Regner (right) of HQMC shares a laugh with wounded warrior Sgt. Keith Buckmon while warming up before a duck hunt on Saturday, January 24 aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico.

didn't work and said, “Which obviously shows that nobody listens to a politician.”

Even though no one shot a duck or even fired a weapon, Buckmon has already volunteered to come back in the spring for a turkey hunt.

“The Marine Corps is a family,” said Flynn. “Taking care of Marines is what we do.”




LANCE CPL. MICHAEL WALTERS

Retired Lt. Col. David Elwing (left) and wounded warrior CW4 Bradley A. Garfield pose along with Elwing's Black Labrador retriever following a duck hunt on Saturday, January 24 aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico. Elwing is president of the Pentagon chapter of Ducks Unlimited.

“You don't know how happy its makes us Marines when the other folks help us take care of Marines, Flynn said. We got great supporters in Congress, and we have great supporters in other organizations such as Ducks Unlimited.”

**THE STRENGTH OF
OUR CORPS
DEPENDS ON THE
STRENGTH
OF OUR MARINES
AND FAMILIES.**

A small, gold-colored Marine Corps emblem is positioned over the word "MARINES" in the main headline. The emblem features an eagle with wings spread, perched atop a globe, which is flanked by two crossed anchors.

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