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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 7, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

PMO opens doors for Cub Scouts

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Iwakuni Cub Scouts Pack 77 toured and experienced some hands-on learning at the Provost Marshal's Office here Feb. 11.

During their visit with PMO, the Wolves and Bears of Pack 77, consisting of boys seven to 10 years of age, were exposed to what PMO does and learned who to contact in case of an emergency or when they recognized a crime.

"It's about making the kids comfortable with PMO and educating them on law enforcement," said Sgt. Mitchel Daniels Sr., an accident investigator with PMO and den leader for the Wolves and Bears of Pack 77. "You never know, we can spark the interest in a child to want to be law enforcement when they grow up."

The Cub Scouts Wolf and Bears handbook contains a section that instructs the boys about law enforcement and teaches them what to do if they ever need to aide law enforcement officials.

The visit with PMO presented the children with an opportunity to learn from more than a book. The boys' trip to PMO consisted of a visit by McGruff the Crime Dog along with a short lecture by Daniels on crime and what to do if they see it happening. The children were also instructed on the process and importance of fingerprinting.

While the boys were practicing taking fingerprints with the help of their mothers, Daniels continued to stress to them the importance of remaining vigilant of crime in their neighborhood.

Conner Strauss, a Cub Scout of Pack

SEE **PMO** ON PAGE 3



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Boys from Cub Scouts Pack 77 watch as the K-9 unit gives a demonstration of their dogs' capabilities during a tour of the Provost Marshal's Office Feb. 12. The group of boys who visited were between the ages of 7- to 10-years-old.

NEWS FEATURE

SHOOTERS



SGT. JOSH COX

(From left to right) Sgt. Aaron Warner, Lance Cpl. Luis Esparza, Gunnery Sgt. Rafael Miranda, Sgt. Justin Taylor and Maj. James S. Whiteker won marksmanship medals during the annual Far East Division Championship at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Jan. 25-26.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Combat Logistics Company 36 competed in the annual Far East Division Championship at Camp Hansen rifle and pistol range, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 25-26.

The Far East Division Championship is one of four division championships throughout the Marine Corps each year as part of the Competition-in-Arms Program to enhance the combat marksmanship proficiency of the Marine Corps.

"What they do is they have the Far East Division, the Pacific Division, Camp Smith, Hawaii, the Western Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the Eastern Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C.," said Maj. James S. Whiteker, CLC-36 commanding officer.

In order to be eligible to compete, Marines

must be a qualified sharpshooter or higher with a service rifle, have no court martial convictions within six months of the championship, and not be released from active duty prior to Sept. 30 of the year in which the competition is held.

The competition is an intensive 10-day training period for Marines who are motivated enough to rise to the challenge with either the M-16A2 rifle, M-16A4 rifle or M-4 rifle with issued sighting system along with the M-9 pistol.

"The real focus is the junior officers and junior enlisted Marines to emerge from this with a much better shot or much better understanding of marksmanship," said Whiteker.

In addition to the individual event, H&HS and CLC-36 each had a shooting team which consisted of four firing members who competed in team competition.

The H&HS team competed in both the

SEE **MEDALS** ON PAGE 3



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Giving God the Opportunity'

LT. D. ANTHONY BAKER
MWSS-171 SQUADRON
CHAPLAIN

I love ministry in the field in a deployed environment. I am not talking about living in hotels and having liberty on the weekend deployments.

I am talking about eating field rations for breakfast and MREs for lunch. I am talking about sleeping in a tent with no heat where you wake up in the morning to frost inside your hooch and you don't want to get out of your bivy sack because you know once the air hits your lungs it is going to feel like little needles inside your chest. That is what I am talking about.

Most recently, I went with my unit, MWSS-171 (the beloved America's Squadron) on a two-week exercise to Camp Fuji where we lived in a place that I just described. It was field living. The ground was hard from being frozen over.

There would be snow flurries

periodically and, when it wouldn't snow, it would rain. Not heavy, tear-drop rain but more of like a light mist that was subtle and almost unnoticeable until your gloves and boots became soaked through.

It was in this place where many Marines experienced God in a new way. Some even came to know Him personally for the first time.

You see, so often we wonder why we don't hear from God or why God doesn't speak to us or why it is difficult to determine God's will for our lives.

However, if we were to take a step back and look at our normal, everyday routine we can see why.

If we are not talking on our cell phones, we have Ipods in our ears. If we are not listening to music, we are eating (maybe we do both). If we are not eating then we are sleeping. If we are not sleeping, we are playing video games, or watching TV, or working, or messing with our kids, or surfing the Internet, or

on Myspace or Facebook.

You see, God doesn't speak into our lives or give us direction because we don't give Him the opportunity to do so. We distract ourselves with activities and we drown out the very thing we need the most, a word from God.

"How does God speak to us?" you may say.

Well, I can guarantee you that if you give God the opportunity, He will.

Maybe God gives you a thought that helps you solve a problem. Maybe He inspires you to do something and take your life in a direction that you never thought of before.

That is why I love field ministry.

Many of the distractions of life go away in that environment, and the heart of a person is open to receive what God has for them.

The challenge I have for you is this: set aside a few minutes every day where you can talk to God and God has the opportunity to talk to you.

You just might find what you are looking for.

M.C. Perry Customer Satisfaction Survey

Last Day to Complete: Feb. 28

Log on to: www.dodea.edu

In our continual efforts to improve the quality of education we provide, your voice is critical to us. Matthew C. Perry Elementary School wants to know how successful you think we have been in meeting your needs this year and are very interested in learning those areas in which you believe we have room for improvement.

We are requesting that each eligible participant complete the appropriate survey.

Completing the survey will assist us in identifying and addressing areas that need attention.

Corps Question

Q. Where can I look to find out what there is to do here on the station and around Iwakuni?

A. The Marine Corps Community Services Web site, <http://www.MCCSIWAKUNI.com>, gives a lot of information about activities going on aboard the station. MCCS also puts out a monthly magazine, the Preview, which always gives a listing of the programs and activities offered both on and off base. Information, Tours and Travel is another resource located in the Crossroads. IT&T coordinates many trips and local activities for service members and their families.

Submit your Corps Question by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil.

YOUR MONEY

SURVIVING THE RECESSION

WITH A CURRENT AVERAGE EXCHANGE RATE OF 90 YEN TO THE U.S. DOLLAR, HOW CAN IWAKUNI RESIDENTS MAKE MORE BANG FOR THE BUCK? THE IWAKUNI APPROACH'S JUNIOR STAFF MEMBERS TELL YOU HOW ...

Walk: Walking is good for you, and saves money.

Share a taxi: Pile in with friends to save.

Visit the Sakura Theater: Movies are cheap and enjoyable.

Read: Check out the station's library to rent media for free.

Forget the name brand: Bleach is bleach, it all stinks.

Eat at the mess hall: Treat yourself to a nutritious meal.

Exercise: Work on those abs at IronWorks Gym for free, or rent free equipment from Outdoor Recreation.

Bowl: The Strike Zone is the perfect place to get your game on for less.

Explore: Visit Iwakuni City and the Kintai area with friends.

Quit smoking or drinking: It's an opportunity to quit a bad habit and save money.

Play: Go to the park, or shoot some hoops.

Don't charge it: Interest rates are soaring on credit.

Stay offline: Can't surf without spending? Limit browsing.

Shooters improve skills, build camaraderie

MEDALS FROM PAGE 1

rifle and pistol team competition, but CLC-36 competed in only the pistol team portion and took third place out of 14 teams.

Competition badges for the rifle and pistol were awarded to the highest 10 percent of the non-distinguished shooters.

A total of five local Marines medaled. Two were from CLC-36 and three from H&HS, said Whiteker.

By taking the top gold in the pistol match, Whiteker will receive a Secretary of the Navy Trophy, a specially prepared rifle.

"I won the top gold medal in

pistol," said Whiteker.

"The medals you win you can wear in place of your shooting badges and they actually replace your shooting badges indefinitely," Whiteker added.

Other Marines who medaled individually were Lance Cpl. Luis Esparza of H&HS, Sgt. Justin Taylor of H&HS, Sgt. Aaron Warner of H&HS and Gunnery Sgt. Rafael Miranda of CLC-36.

Lance Cpl. Esparza is one of five gold medalists in the pistol competition and has been given the opportunity to try out for the Marine Corps shooting team at Camp Lejeune. He leaves for Camp Lejeune Feb. 20.

"I won the silver in the rifle competition," said Taylor, fire fighter with Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting. "I think I did better because the Marine Corps shooting team was there to give us pointers."

Marines specifically selected by their commands are afforded the opportunity to exchange ideas with Marines from other commands and improve their marksmanship skills as well as passing their knowledge on to their fellow Marines.

Whiteker said one of the biggest take aways from the competition was that a lot of camaraderie was built and they all came back better shooters.

"The medals you win you can wear in place of your shooting badges and they actually replace your shooting badges indefinitely." — Maj. James S. Whiteker



SGT. JOSH COX

(From left to right) Cpl. Kristopher Haney, Gunnery Sgt. Rafael Miranda, Pfc. Cory Holdorf, Lance Cpl. Roque Carmona, Lance Cpl. Luis Esparza, Sgt. Justin Taylor, Lance Cpl. Steven Afalla, Sgt. Aaron Warner, Cpl. Toniesha Gaddis, Maj. James Whiteker, Lance Cpl. Andrew Rodgers, Lance Cpl. Shannon Heywood, Lance Cpl. Travis Fahsholtz, Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Matura, Lance Cpl. Brittney Taylor and Lance Cpl. William Cuevas. (Not pictured) Cpl. Robert Giuliani and Pfc. William Martin.

Scouts explore PMO

PMO FROM PAGE 1

77 who visited PMO, said he enjoyed taking fingerprints and also learned what to do if you see crime and who to report it to.

"The kids are just a vital piece of the community as any," said Daniels. "There have been many times kids have assisted us in law enforcement matters."

After the fingerprinting, the Cub Scouts, along with their mothers, were given a demonstration by the K-9 unit followed by a short tour of the PMO station.

"I was excited for the boys to come do this," said Ann Daniels, wife of Sgt. Daniels and a mother who attended the PMO tour. "Crime is something we will always have a problem with and if we can teach a few more kids, maybe they can pass the knowledge on."

Ann said she hopes that when the boys pass on what they learned that evening, they also pass on what the Cub Scouts teaches them on the lessons of honor, helping others and being respectful.

The Cub Scouts stress all the lessons of duty and helping others in their Scout Promise at the beginning of all their meetings.

Another one of the many lessons the Cub Scouts instills in the children is a sense of well-being and preparation for anything.

Daniels said the lessons the children were taught that evening at PMO were all in accord with what the Cub Scouts teach in calibrating the boys' moral compass while they are still young.

PMO rescues missing canine, reunites with owner

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Provost Marshal's Office Marines rescued a small dog Feb. 6 and returned it to its Japanese owners within hours of its rescue. At approximately 8:30 a.m., PMO received a report of a dog that had been seen stranded on the banks of the Monzen River, near Midrise 589. Sgt. Hector C. Cons and Lance Cpl. Juan A. Desantiago were the first PMO Marines to arrive at the scene. "We spotted the dog almost immediately," said Cons. "There

was a basket right next to him, which made us suspect it had drifted down the river in it. Although, we weren't quite sure... maybe it just tried to cross the river during low tide and got stuck there." Cons and Desantiago were amazed to see that the animal looked alert and healthy. As Cons walked down the embankment with a net, the animal jumped into the water and attempted to evade capture. However, Cons succeeded in capturing the animal with his net and Desantiago hoisted it up into their vehicle. "We immediately took him to the

vet clinic," said Cons. "There, we ran a scanner over him to see if it had a micro-chip." All dogs and cats here on the station are required to have a micro-chip imbedded in them to properly identify them in case they get lost. As Cons and Desantiago were unable to locate a micro-chip, they assumed the dog belonged to a family off-base. "We asked our Japanese interpreters at PMO to contact the local police and notify them about the missing dog," said Cons. "The Japanese Police called back 10 minutes later, telling us they had

made contact with the animal's owners, who had apparently filed a missing-animal report to them two weeks prior." Arrangements were made for Cons and Desantiago to return the dog to its rightful owners outside the station's front gate. The dog's owners arrived at approximately 10:15 a.m., which was less than two hours after Cons and Desantiago first spotted the dog stranded near the river. "They couldn't stop thanking us," said Desantiago. "It was a very speedy recovery, and it felt great to serve the Japanese community in this way."



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Junior Sailor of the Quarter

Navy Builder Constructionman Johan Rosario Acosta, a Seabee Builders Construction Specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and native of the Dominican Republic, was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter. Seabee Builders make up a large segment of the Navy's construction force. They work as carpenters, plasterers, roofers, concrete finishers, masons, painters and bricklayers. Rosario Acosta has honorably served in the Navy since January 2008.

President Orders 12,000 soldiers, Marines to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has ordered a Marine expeditionary brigade and an Army Stryker brigade combat team — totaling 12,000 soldiers and Marines — to Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates signed the orders today. The soldiers are part of the 2nd Infantry Division's 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team based at Fort Lewis, Wash., and the Marines serve with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Of the 12,000, 4,000 are soldiers and the remaining 8,000 are Marines. Both units will deploy later this spring. This is the president's first deployment decision. "There is no more solemn duty as president than the decision to deploy our armed forces into harm's way," Obama said in a written statement released by the White House. "I do it today mindful that

the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan demands urgent attention and swift action." The president's decision is for up to 17,000 servicemembers to deploy. The 5,000 other soldiers and Marines are "enabler forces," Defense Department officials said. These troops generally deploy in smaller units and cover such necessary capabilities as engineers, command and control, communication, intelligence and military police. The deployment partially fulfills the request that Army Gen. David D. McKiernan made upon taking command in Afghanistan last year. McKiernan is the commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan. "General McKiernan's request is months old, and the fact that we are going to responsibly drawdown our forces in Iraq allows us the flexibility to increase our presence in Afghanistan," the president said.

Both units had been slated to deploy to Iraq. Both will be based in Regional Command South, Defense Department officials said. Obama called the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan "resurgent," and said the groups threaten America from safe havens along the Pakistani-Afghan border. There are 38,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan today and about 19,000 other troops from 42 different countries. "This reinforcement will contribute to the security of the Afghan people and to stability in Afghanistan," Obama said. "I recognize the extraordinary strain that this deployment places on our troops and military families. I honor their service and will give them the support they need." The president said the situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating. The deployment is aimed at stabilizing the country. The 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team was the most recent

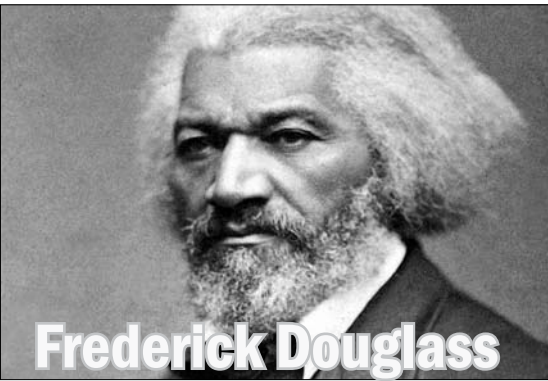
reinforcement to Afghanistan. The Fort Drum, N.Y.-based unit has begun operations in Regional Command East. In addition, the 82nd Airborne Division's Combat Aviation Brigade based at Fort Bragg, N.C., will deploy to Afghanistan later this spring. Aviation assets are needed in the rough terrain of Afghanistan. McKiernan has asked for another brigade combat team, or its equivalent. The White House is conducting a strategic review of the situation in Afghanistan. "This troop increase does not predispose the results of that strategic review," Obama said. "Instead, it will further enable our team to put together a comprehensive strategy that will employ all elements of our national power to fulfill achievable goals in Afghanistan." The president said any move the United States makes will be done in consultation with friends and allies.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



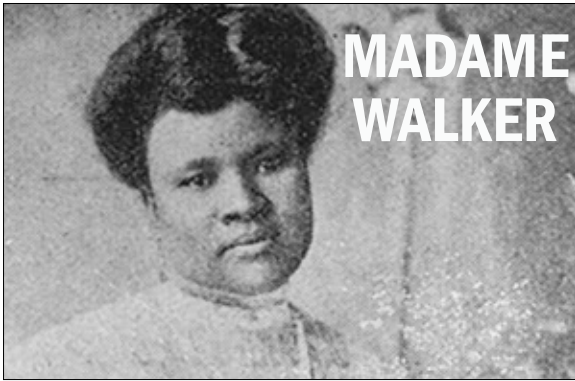
WALLERY OF PARIS

Josephine Baker was the first black woman to star in a major motion picture. She was most noted for her performance in Danse Banane, where she wore little more than a skirt of bananas. She used her fame to shed light on equal rights across the world. From Diana Ross to Beyonce Knowles, Baker, the original triple threat, opened the door and led the way for future generations of black female entertainers.



GEORGE K. WARREN

Frederick Douglass is credited as one of the most prominent figures in black history. He escaped from slavery by posing as a sailor. In 1872, he became the first black man to run for vice president. By refusing to accept a life of victimization, Douglass persevered against all odds, becoming an inspiration for past, present and future generations.



STOCK PHOTOGRAPH

Madame Walker is known for becoming the country's first female black millionaire. She developed a cosmetics line and travelled the country, aggressively expanding her brand. She created controversy with her decision to only allow women to hold managerial positions. After the St. Louis Race Riot of 1917, she devoted her efforts to making lynching a federal crime.

Looking back, moving forward

Why Black History Month was born and how the dream became a reality

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With a special service being held at the chapel today, this month Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni joins the United States in observing Black History Month. Black History Month, formerly known as Negro History Week, was created in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson. The historian designated the second week in February as Negro History Week to correlate with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two prominent figures in black history. More than 135 years ago, Douglass became the very first black vice presidential nominee, running on a ticket with Victoria Woodhull, who just so happened to be the very first woman to ever run for President of the United States. Black History Month's original intentions were to shine a light on historical blacks who would inspire new generations to persevere against the odds. A lot has changed in the 80 years since Black History

Month's birth. Blacks are more prevalent in the media, segregation no longer divides the nation's public areas and a black man is now president of the United States. Obama becoming president has many people in the black community exclaiming, "mission accomplished." With the new president comes a new sentiment into the purpose behind Black History Month, where people here and elsewhere are debating whether or not it should still exist. For instance, last year, black actor Morgan Freeman was bestowed the Kennedy Center Honors, one of the nation's highest recognitions in the arts. With this honor, Freeman joined the ranks of previous honorees such as Clint Eastwood and Steven Spielberg. Eight months before Freeman received the award, a video was posted on YouTube where Freeman exclaimed, "I don't want a Black History Month!" The video created minor buzz, but in the wake of Obama's election, the video took on a whole new life.

Message boards and blogs online had people rallying behind Freeman's distaste for a month he claimed ridiculous. When asked how to get rid of racism without a special month, Freeman simply stated, "stop talking about it." The United States is no longer plagued with the racism Rosa Parks faced in 1955. If the country had not changed, Beyonce Knowles would not possess ten Grammys and Oprah Winfrey would not be the richest, most powerful celebrity in the world, according to Forbes magazine. Lincoln and Douglass advocated equality for all, not just blacks. "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong," said Douglass. Douglass' quote is as relevant in a modern day America that is no longer divided by race but still divided by political parties. "You are going to regulate my history to a month?" said Freeman. "Black history is American History." American History is rich with innovative thinkers. Though the country's history is filled with dark moments, from those dark

moments came extraordinary people. These were people who thought outside of the box and refused to accept the wrongs of the society they lived in. As of now, no discussions or decisions have been made on whether Black History Month should continue to exist in the future. Perhaps Black History Month has run its course, as Freeman and others claim. What we need is a new month of remembrance. A month that unites the country by remembering all the free thinkers and innovators of United States History, regardless of their race. From the country's forefathers to Martin Luther King there have been many heroes who have fought for freedom. Over time, their efforts have done away with segregation and racial bigotry to the point where we have become one people, one America. Black history is American history, so the question remains: is there still a need for a Black History Month? You tell us. Email iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Beyonce Knowles is one of the world's top entertainers. Endorsement deals, movie contracts and a clothing line have made her the world's highest earning black female artist of all time. Last month, Beyonce performed "At Last" for the first dance after Obama's inauguration.



CHIEF PETTY OFFICER JAMES CLARK

Barack Obama is the United States' first black president. His inspiring speeches and notions for change brought a record breaking number of voters to the polls. His inauguration has cemented his place in history. The next four years will be his true defining moments.



STOCK PHOTOGRAPH

Forbes magazine says Oprah Winfrey is the richest, most powerful celebrity in the world. Her book club, magazines and talk shows have made her the world's first black billionaire. Her can-do attitude and personal struggles cemented her place in television and black history.



Enlisted Seabee personnel pose for a snapshot outside their work center at station facilities. (Front Row) Utilitiesman 3rd Class Eric M. Swann, Builder 3rd Class Michael R. Stowe, Builder Constructionman Jeff S. Searcy, Chief Builder (Seabee Combat Warfare) Paul J. McAllister, Builder 2nd Class (Seabee Combat Warfare) Sarah M. Kridenoff (Back Row) Construction Electrician 3rd Class Fernan J. Hernandez, Builder Constructionman Darcus N. Coleman, Builder Constructionman Johan M. Rosario, Builder Constructionman Steven T. Protain, Steel Worker 1st Class (Seabee Combat Warfare) Bobby R. Wilson.

They build, they fight: Iwakuni’s unsung heroes

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

All service members, station residents and their guests are invited to celebrate the 67th Seabee birthday at the Iwakuni Ball Room here March 6.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with members of the small Seabee detachment currently serving here and learn about their rich history, tradition and the pivotal role they play aboard the air station.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni depends on 22 Seabees, who work with station facilities, to handle everything from disaster relief, accomplishing minor construction projects and running a 24-hour trouble desk.

The Seabees help maintain the base along with 172 Japanese labor contractors.

Although the Japanese labor contractors perform most of the construction labor here, the station would be at a serious loss without the Seabees.

Seabees are trained to work under hard conditions. Their work schedules are not fixed like their Japanese counterparts. Instead, Seabees respond to base maintenance troubles and emergencies around-the-clock, 365 days a year, and put themselves in harm’s way to keep station residents safe.

“A base resident may call us in the middle of the night with some kind of plumbing, electrical or any other general maintenance problem,” said Utilitiesman 3rd Class Eric M. Swann.

“It’s our job to assess the problem over the phone, grab all the tools we think we might need, and then fix or find a temporary fix to that person’s problem.”

In addition to solving people’s ordinary household problems, the Seabees play a vital role during a typhoon, storm or any other natural disaster that may afflict the base.

During a typhoon, while most station residents and service members are ordered to remain indoors, Seabees are out cranking open flood gates by hand, fixing power outages, maintaining generators and securing potentially destructive flying debris.

“Can Do!” is our motto,” said Builder 3rd Class Michael R. Stowe, who served two combat tours as a Seabee in Iraq. “Whether we’re building bridges under mortar fire or working outside in the thick of a typhoon, in our minds is one thing — getting the job done.”

Getting the job done under dangerous and seemingly impossible conditions is at the core of Seabee history and tradition.

During World War II, the Navy desperately needed skilled workers to pave roads, build airstrips, construct bases and breach obstacles as the allies advanced in Europe and in the Pacific.

The first Seabees were recruited directly from their civilian construction trades. Their average age was 37, yet they landed ashore with the Marines at Iwo Jima and Army Rangers at Omaha Beach.

Following World War II, Seabees served in every major U.S. conflict from Korea to current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Seabees are still serving on the frontlines with infantry battalions, setting up forward operating bases, building bridges and rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Stowe.

“Just like our World War II, Korean and Vietnam War counterparts, we’re out there building and

fighting.”

Like Marines, the Seabees possess a unique sense of pride in who they are and how they serve. They have their own song, mottos and uniform.

“Wearing the Seabee patch close to your heart gives you all the more reason to wear our uniform with pride,” said Builder Constructionman Johan M. Rosario, a Seabee serving here. “Becoming a Seabee is the best thing I could have ever done for myself.”

All those interested in attending the 2009 Wild West Seabee Ball are encouraged to call 253-5416 for more information.

Tickets are on sale through Feb. 27 at the Cash Cage inside the Eagle’s Nest. Tickets run at \$25 for E-5 and below, and \$35 for E-6 and above and all other guests. The event will take place March 6, at the Ball Room, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.



Builder 3rd Class Michael R. Stowe, one of the 22 Seabees serving here with station facilities, breaks up concrete behind the commissary to make way for a new construction project. Stowe and his fellow Seabees take special pride in wearing the Seabee patch and being part of the Seabees’ rich history and tradition.



Builder Constructionman Jeff S. Searcy gives advice to Utilitiesman 3rd Class Eric M. Swann as he passes off the jackhammer to him at a Seabee construction project behind the commissary. The Seabees are currently erecting 22 steel sheds throughout the base to house power generators used during power-outages and typhoons.

2009 WILD WEST SEABEE BALL

Friday, March 6
5 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Iwakuni Ball Room

Ticket information:
On Sale through Feb. 27 at the Eagle’s Nest Cash Cage
E-5 and below, \$25
E-6 and above & all others, \$35

Attire:
Full dinner dress, appropriate civilian attire

MENU

Starters:
Roasted Pumpkin and Turnip Soup with cornbread croutons
Coleslaw & Spinach with apple wood smoked bacon

Entrée Selections:
Corn-breaded fillet of trout with horseradish butter sauce
Lightly smoked quail with pinto beans and cheddar ragout
Charcoal-broiled Buffalo New York Steak with BBQ black peppercorn sauce
*All entrées served with Succotash and baked mashed potatoes

Desert:
Blackberry Pie with maple sugar glaze

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



Marines with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment begin a raid on combat town range 131 after their convoy is attacked with a simulated improvised explosive device here Feb. 3. The training is conducted as part of a six day raid training package to prepare the Marines for their upcoming deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit later this year.

CPL. JEFFREY BELOVARAC

Raid training challenges in ways new and old

CPL. JEFFREY BELOVARAC
11TH MARINE
EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — In recent years, Marines have trained exclusively for operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. But when Marines attach to a Marine expeditionary unit, they have to prepare for anything, anywhere.

“From what I hear, at a MEU, anything can happen,” said Pfc. Freddie Calonge, 20, and a Delano, Calif., native.

Calonge, and others serving with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit’s ground-combat element, participated in raid training at Firebase Gloria Feb. 2-6. He said this training is one important step for readying an expeditionary force.

The raid training, orchestrated by I Marine Expeditionary Force’s Special Operations Training Group, prepared the Marines for the MEU’s upcoming deployment later this year.

Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, reinforced with assets from Company A, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn. learned how they will serve in overall missions that include land, sea and air elements working together on operations.

Marines and sailors loaded Humvees and light-armored vehicles onto air-cushioned landing

crafts that brought the raid force to shore.

For most of the Marines, it was their first time riding on these naval landing crafts. Most pre-deployment training in recent years has focused on ground operations and has not required amphibious practice.

“It’s important to practice with the (landing crafts) to see if the whole unit can be mobile when we get on the ships,” said Calonge. “If not, well, that’s what the training is for.”

The raids required Marines to move in and out of areas in short amounts of time, forcing teams to act quickly and make on-the-spot decisions to carry out missions.

“It puts a great amount of responsibility on our small-unit leadership,” said 1st Sgt. Felix D. Acosta, Weapons Co. first sergeant. “It’s not the same mundane patrolling these guys are used to.”

The Marines learned proper sensitive site exploitation, which consists of gathering intelligence immediately after capturing a site. Part of this procedure involves Marines videotaping or drawing floor plans of buildings and marking locations of objects and people. Accumulating this type of information helps Marines learn more about their enemies.

“This helped me realized how much (of our intelligence) relies on the information we get,” said



Lance Cpl. Rueben J. Sosa, 22, from Loving, N.M., and Lance Cpl. Justin R. Jöhler, 21, from Hotsprings, Ark., both with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, make their final search through combat town range 131 to begin conducting sensitive site exploitation procedures here Feb. 3. The training is conducted as part of a six day raid training package to prepare the Marines for their upcoming deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit later this year.

CPL. JEFFREY BELOVARAC

Pfc. Thomas X. Gray, 18, and a Highland Mills, N.Y., native “I’m sure there s a lot of details Marines might notice in a raid but won’t really think (it has) any importance.”

With the intelligence gathered before an operation, Marines spend preparation time creating terrain models so everyone can physically see and understand their individual roles during the raids.

Free time was spent practicing how each team would clear buildings housing enemy fighters, a skill most infantry Marines have down to an art. Practice, however, helped everyone prepare for their raids.

“It’s real good to get them in the combat mindset,” said Lance Cpl. Rueben J. Sosa, 22, and a Loving, N.M., native.

“You can never have too much training.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Oriental Carpets and Rugs Auction Sale

The Navy Birthday Ball Committee proudly presents the oriental carpets and rugs auction sale on Feb. 28, 2 p.m. at MCCS Club Iwakuni Ball Room.

Viewing from 1 to 2 p.m. The collection includes items of high pedigree from major ateliers of the principle knotting areas including Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Kashmir, and Central Asia. Also includes Tribal, Village & Master workshop origin together with superb silk examples.

All lots with certificates of origin, authenticity & realistic retail replacement value. Terms are cash, check or credit card. Door prize carpets are valued \$1,500 and \$1,000. Appetizers and beverages to be served. Funds

generated will be used to offset Navy Ball ticket prices. For more information, call 253-3302.

Image Makers National Photography Contest

Do you have any shutterbugs around the club, school or home?

If so, this is the contest project for you.

• Local exhibit will be displayed at Club Iwakuni Ballroom “A” on Mar. 17.

• Participants must have been club members for at least three months before the contest.

• Age categories are divided into the following: 9 or younger, 10-12 years old, 13-15 years old, 16-18 years old.

• Photographs must be entered in one of the following categories:

a. Color process, black-

and-white process, alternative process (pin-hole cameras, Polaroid transfers, photo screen-printing, photo etching and photogram), digital (photos must be taken with a digital camera and images may not be manipulated), photo essay (“Be a Photographer”).

• Photographs must not exceed 8 by 11 inches.

For more detail, contact MCCS Youth and Teen Center at 253-5549.

Image Makers Photography Scholarship

To encourage talented Club members to hone their skills and pursue photography as a career, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Circuit City Foundation are offering the Image Makers Photography Scholarship.

Four winners will each receive \$3,000 scholarships to be used for college or art school.

Club members aged 16-18 are eligible. For applications or more information, contact MCCS Youth and Teen Center at 253-5549.

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 questions regarding what Marines and sailors will need to prepare taxes, please contact the law center (SJA) at 253-5591 or 5592.

Youth and Teen Mardi Gras Dance Party

Feb. 20, 6 – 8:45 p.m. (for 10 – 12 years old) and 9 – 11:15 p.m. (for 13 – 18 years old) at Youth and Teen Center, Bldg. 443. Live DJ, games and prizes. For more information, contact MCCS Youth and Teen at 253-5549.

2nd Annual Rummage Sale, Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

Hosted by M.C. Perry High School PTO Booster Club at the 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

The furniture sale that was scheduled for Feb. 28, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and March 1, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at M.C. Perry School Cafeteria has been cancelled. Volunteers are no longer needed.

UMUC Academic Advisor Visit

Mar. 3 – 5, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 5 p.m. Appointments must be made in advance by contacting the Iwakuni UMUC Office at 253-3392. Each appointment will be 30 minutes in duration, in a private classroom, “one-on-one” with an academic advisor.

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 flags will be “retired” with the dignity and respect befitting of our nation’s flag. For more information, call 253-3505 or e-mail: iwakunibsatroop77@hotmail.com.

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.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, Feb. 20 2009

7 p.m. Doubt (PG-13)

Premier

10 p.m. Valkyrie (PG-13)

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009

1 p.m. Bedtime Stories (PG)

4 p.m. Marley and Me (PG)

7 p.m. The Spirit (PG-13)

10 p.m. Doubt (PG-13)

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009

1 p.m. Marley and Me (PG)

4 p.m. Doubt (PG-13)

7 p.m. He’s Just Not That Into You (PG-13)

Monday, Feb. 23, 2009

7 p.m. Bedtime Stories (PG)

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009

7 p.m. The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13)

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009

7 p.m. Without a Paddle (PG-13)

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009

7 p.m. Cadillac Records (R)

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

1997 Suzuki Wagon R Wide

4-door hatchback. Seats five. A/C and heat work great. AM/FM radio, CD player (MP3) with removable face. Cloth seats. Floor mats. JCI until April 2010. Available after Mar. 10. Asking \$3,200. If interested, call 253-3694 (work) or 253-7301 (home).

1993 Toyota Lite Ace

Asking \$1,700. JCI until April 2010. 4-door passenger van. Seats 8. AM/FM radio, CD player (MP3). Front and rear sun roof, cloth seats. New brake pads recently. Fuel up only one time per month. If interested, call 253-3694 (work) or 253-7301 (home).

2000 Mitsubishi Dion

\$3,800 OBO. Very nice and clean. JCI good until August 2010. Seven passengers, automatic. A/C automatic temperature control. CD player. Power windows. Remote keyless entry.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Manhattan clam chowder, chicken and rice soup, sauerbraten, jerk styled chicken, steamed rice, oven brown potatoes, French fried okra, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls

Tuesday

Beef noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, Swiss steak w/gravy, szechwan chicken, o'brien potatoes, noodles jefferson, French fried cauliflower, broccoli parmesan, brown gravy, cheese biscuit

Wednesday

Tomato noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, sweet & sour pork, yakisoba (hamburger), pork fried rice, brussels sprouts, corn, whole kernel, dinner rolls

Thursday

Minestrone soup, cream of broccoli soup, fried chicken, beef stoganoff, buttered pasta, candied sweet potatoes, okra and tomato gumbo, green beans, southern style chicken gravy, cheese biscuits

Friday

Beef barley soup, Spanish soup, lemon baked fish, el rancho stew, steamed rice, potatoes au gratin, cauliflower combo, black eyed peas, dinner rolls, brown gravy, chicken gravy, dinner rolls

TV. Many more to list. Call 253-2114 (home) or 253-5635 (work).

1997 Mitsubishi Legnum Wagon

2.0L V-6, AWD, 4-speed auto w/ "manu-matic". Power windows and sunroof. 117,000km, JCI until Oct. 2009. Clean interior and great family car with lots of space. AWD perfect for skiing and snowboarding trips. Comes with roof rails and extra set of rims. \$2,000 OBO. For more information, call 253-4726 (work) or 080-3705-2974 (cell).

1996 Honda XR250 Motorcycle

Great on gas mileage. Road tax paid. Low insurance rates. Kept in storage. Very clean. Well maintained and kept all oil changes and services current. Good tires. Low mileage. Perfect to ride and sight see Japan with. New helmet included. Asking \$1,700 OBO. For more information, call 253-6055 (work) or 253-2997 (home).

1995 Mitsubishi Diamante

A new transmission (\$2,000 estimate parts and labor from base repair shop) would make this Diamante the cleanest four-door sedan around. V-6 w/ low miles. Metallic charcoal silver w/ alloy wheels, crystal clean interior, grey leather, full power, new CD player and speakers. JCI expires in Feb. 2010. Car is priced at \$900 – OBO. For more information, call 253-2356.

Miscellaneous

• Whirlpool Washer and Dryer \$200
• Fast and Furious Franchise Collection (two movies) \$5
• Pink Razor three-wheel scooter \$15 OBO
• Men's size 11 Crocs and two pairs of other shoes \$20
Contact 080-3474-8856 (cell) or potwic@gmail.com.

Game Boys for Sale

Two one-year-old pink Game Boys for sale. \$30 each or 2 for \$55. They both come with all the necessary chargers, headphones, and carrying cases. If interested, please call 080-3705-2974 (cell).

Drum Set for Sale

GP200 Percussion, 5-Piece, three stands, forest green, approximately two years old. Asking for \$200. For more information, call 253-2040.

Solid Wood Twin Beds

\$50 each. Two available. Slats included. Adjustable height. Great for under bed storage. For more information, call 253-2609 (home) or e-mail mcneelys947e@gmail.com.

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.

YOUTH SPORTS



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A Bulls player gives his teammates a high five while they rest on the bench at half-time during a youth basketball game at the IronWorks Gym Feb. 12. The Bulls played the Wizards. Both teams are composed of 3 to 4-year-olds. No score was kept during the game since the main goal was for the children to have fun.

Wizards, Bulls play for a good time

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Basketballs flew through the air as 3 to 4-year-old children ran and fell to the ground laughing while their parents yelled out "get the ball!" and "run over there, over there!"

That was the scene during the game between the Bulls and the Wizards youth basketball teams.

The game between the Bulls and the Wizards offered an opportunity for the children to do more than sit at home and gave their parents a chance to watch their children run and have fun at the IronWorks Gym basketball court Feb. 12.

"It helps give them an early start at being active," said Sgt. Juan J. Castro, a quality assurance representative with Marine Aviation and Logistics Squadron 12 and whose son plays for the Bulls. "You start them early, by the time they get in the teenage years they will be more into sports and they will stay out of trouble."

During the whole game, the children wildly dashed back and

forth across the court, laughing and stumbling with their arms flailing in the air chasing the basketball.

Castro said he's happy to see his son running back and forth staying active, doing what kids are supposed to do and not just sitting at home playing video games.

With a little encouragement from their coaches, the children would take aim and shoot for a basket which at times made it in.

Though no score was kept during the game, it became apparent what the game was really about watching the parents laugh and smile as their giggling children scuttled across the court chasing the ball.

"They're just having a good time," said Jessica Arroyo, coach for the Wizards. "It's not about scores or stats."

Arroyo said while it's not about competition now, it introduces them to the sport for the future. It's for the long run, she added.

Sgt. Eric Benitez, coach for the Bulls, said the basketball program introduces them to the basics of the sport and helps

them with their social skills, teaching them how to work together.

While the game is a competitive one, the competition and rivalry between the two teams is forgotten when the 3 to 4-year-old children take the court.

The ideas running through the parents' and the coaches' minds were the same.

Castro said he enjoys watching his son play.

Though on opposing teams the coaches thought the same thing about the game.

Arroyo said the best part of coaching the team is she gets to spend time with her children, watching them play and grow.

Benitez said his military career takes most of his time, but coaching his son's team gives him an opportunity to enjoy more time with him.

The basketball court at the IronWorks Gym was filled with families watching children running and playing basketball that night – all with one common thing in mind.

"Everyone can have a good time," said Benitez.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A Bulls player takes a shot while players from both teams wait for a potential rebound during a youth basketball game at the IronWorks Gym Feb. 12. The Bulls played the Wizards, but no score was kept. Youth basketball coaches emphasize good sportsmanship and fun, rather than the need to win. The players for both teams were between the ages of 3 to 4-years old.

2009 WILD WEST SEABEE BALL

**Tickets on sale
through Feb. 27
at the SNCO Cash
Cage.**

**E-5 and below, \$25
E-6 and above,
and all others, \$35**

**Child care available
paid by the Seabee
Ball Committee.**

**10 children
minimum.**

**Contact the CDC at
253-5584.**

**Attire:
Full Dinner
Dress
Appropriate
Civilian attire**