

**TASTY TREATS**

Marines cook up American cuisine for Japanese foster children | P.3

**FEATURE**

**SADDLE UP AND RIDE**

The Basic Riders Course will get you started | P.6,7

**FEATURE**

**HOOPS**

Find out how the Far East Basketball Tournament ended | P.11

**SPORTS**

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 8, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## OPSEC

Does social networking pose a serious threat?

LANCE CPL.  
DANIEL NEGRETE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

In 1862, a Union soldier discovered an envelope lying in the grass at a position previously held by Confederate troops.

Inside the envelope were three cigars wrapped in a piece of paper. The paper turned out to be a letter endorsed to Gen. Robert E. Lee, delineating the exact route to be taken by Confederate troops in their march toward Maryland.

When the commander of the Union forces received the letter, he maneuvered his troops accordingly and stopped Lee's advance at the subsequent Battle of Antietam.

Loosing the letter and giving the Union access to vital information became one of the greatest blunders in military history.

Finding top-secret information inside an envelope filled with cigars may sound like a thing of the past.

However, security leaks are as prevalent and dangerous today as they were during the American Civil War.

In the current era of blogging, Facebook and MySpace, everyone can become the culprit of security leaks.

"This is especially true for service members who possess information regarding their base, unit and upcoming deployments," said Andrew R. Samuels, the station's anti-terrorism officer. "Any information service members accidentally or unknowingly post on the Internet can end up in the wrong hands."

Terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda use the Internet as their primary means of gathering

intelligence.

"Evidence strongly suggests that Al Qaeda used unclassified, open-source material found on the Internet to orchestrate their attacks on 9-11," said Samuels.

"This is how they learned about

aircraft schedules, security procedures, work schedules and other loopholes in our systems."

Computers and compact-discs seized during operations in

## NEWS FEATURE

# 'Never forgotten'



LCPL CHRIS KUTLESA

A Marine says a prayer while placing his hand on Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Hansen's display at a memorial service held at Marine Memorial Chapel here Feb. 20. The blast of an improvised explosive device killed Hansen Feb. 14 while he was on deployment in Afghanistan, Hansen was engaged to be married later this year. Read the full story on page 4.

## ServMart now open

■ Leatherneck Depot's replacement store stocks unit mission-essentials

LANCE CPL.  
SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Service members here along with staff master labor contractors and General Services Administration personnel came together for the grand opening of Iwakuni's USMC ServMart here Feb. 18.

"The purpose of the USMC ServMart is to provide the mission requirements for official government purchases to the MCAS Iwakuni populace," said Linda R. Richison-Steves, director, Pacific/Far East Retail Operations.

The Marine Corps and the GSA established a partnership to provide an enterprise-wide solution for the management of the Marine Corps Garrison Retail Supply System. The USMC ServMart is the solution for MCAS Iwakuni; customers are encouraged to identify any additional requirements not in the initial inventory.

This partnership was finalized by a memorandum of agreement on Oct. 26, 2007.

"It is a true partnership between GSA and MCAS Iwakuni. The official shoppers will appreciate the streamline billing process as well," said Richison-Steves.


At full operation, the ServMart will carry 1,500 stocked items. The final containers of inventory are scheduled to arrive within the next two weeks.

The items stocked range

SEE OPSEC ON PAGE 3

SEE MART ON PAGE 3





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*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

## ‘Survival of the fittest’

LT. CMDR. JOHN Q. COMETA  
DEPUTY COMMAND  
CHAPLAIN

"Survival of the fittest" according to Wikipedia is a phrase which is shorthand for a concept relating to competition for survival or predominance. Herbert Spencer originally used this phrase in his Principles of Biology of 1864. He believes that "only the fittest organisms will prevail."

In a recent poll, 50 percent of Americans are worried and afraid of losing their jobs. Last January, 4.8 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits.

The global economic situation is so serious that some agencies say that it has surpassed terrorism as the top threat to national security.

Many of our people are gripped with a sense of fear. The rate of suicide has soared skyward. In these days of uncertainties, is Herbert Spencer right when he said "only the fittest will survive and prevail?"

Two thousand years ago, Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came

down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." (Matthew 7:24-27)

The rain, wind and the flood could be our present economic crisis and trials of life that we all face. To withstand all kinds of crisis, Jesus wants us to have a solid foundation. In other words, the fittest are those who have a solid foundation.

What is this foundation He is talking about? In Christian context, He is referring to Himself, the living Word and the Rock of all ages. But it could be our core values of honor, courage and commitment. Are we nurturing and internalizing our core values?

Suicide is now becoming a serious public health threat to our nation.

One way to combat suicide is to encourage all our Marines and sailors not only to be physically, socially, and mentally fit, but

above all to be spiritually fit.

To be spiritually fit does not necessarily mean we have to be religious.

As Covey emphasized, the spiritual dimension is our core, our center, our foundation, our commitment to our value system or life's governing principles that guide us to do what is right and what is wrong, which acts to perform and refrain from even in the midst of crisis.

To determine if a Marine or sailor is physically fit, he or she has to pass the physical readiness test. Though we don't have a spiritual readiness test to determine if a Marine or sailor is spiritually fit, we still need to promote spiritual fitness.

I heard of a sailor who could max his PRT but was processed out because he made wrong choices. He is physically fit but spiritually unfit.

As a Christian, my spiritual exercise or discipline includes prayer, reading of God's Word, meditation, fasting, fellowship and witnessing.

As one Christian wrote, "Just like regular exercise builds our muscles and removes excess fat from our bodies making us healthier — spiritual exercise removes the weight of our secret sins (bad habits), our past sins and helps us to resist temptation (make right choices)." Semper Fidelis!

# Office supply outlet doors swing open

MART FROM PAGE 1

from general office supplies and equipment to industrial cleaning and janitorial supplies, core paper products, as well as tools and safety equipment.

"The inventory will be representative of the core items that are mission oriented by the Marine Corps as well as the rest of the tenant commands," said Richison-Steves.

Anyone who has government funding can shop at the USMC ServMart, shoppers must pre-register their accounts and obtain a local issued MCAS Purchase Card.

The GSA system also allows customers to use their Government Purchase Card.

"The USMC ServMart is for the official government purchase shopper," said Robert T. Bugawan, Jr., Storage Division officer, Logistics Department, MCAS Iwakuni.

Unregistered shoppers can browse, make a shopping list or intranet inventory posting, and pass it to their supply or



Col. Michael O'Halloran, station commanding officer, along with John Boyan, Federal Acquisition Service's assistant regional administrator, prepare to cut a ribbon in front of the new USMC ServMart, officially opening the establishment here Feb. 18. ServMart replaces the Leatherneck Depot as the one-stop shop for mission related office items purchasable only by government charge card holders.

authorized government purchase cardholder to complete the purchase.

The benefit to the official government shopper is that they will again be able to visit one

location for all their purchases.

"The general base populous will not have to drive across the base to multiple locations to complete their purchases; they will be able to get everything they need at the

base exchange without going back and forth," said Bugawan.

ServMart is located adjacent to IronWorks gym and hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

# Special St. Patrick’s Day meal

South side and North side mess halls 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 17

MENU:

Special Irish beef stew  
Classic fish and chips  
Corned beef and cabbage  
Beer batter fish fillets

Irish potato casserole  
Irish heritage cabbage  
Simmered green beans  
Irish spicy corn bread

Irresistible Irish soda bread  
Irish Cream bundt cake  
Chocolate cookies  
Cherry pie

Comrats, family members and civilians pay \$4.25.  
Family of members of E4 and below pay \$3.65.

# Corps Question

**Q. Where can I go if I need emergency financial assistance?**

**A. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private, non-profit, charitable organization that exists solely to support the active and retired communities of the naval service. It provides financial, educational and other assistance to members of the naval service of the United States, their eligible family members and survivors when in need. For additional information, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is located in room 148 of the station chapel.**

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

# OPSEC eliminates exploitation of important information

OPSEC FROM PAGE 1

Afghanistan revealed Al Qaeda had been collecting terabytes of information from open sources found on the Internet. They housed vital information regarding U.S. power plants, military installations and other targets of opportunity.

The Department of Defense now requires annual Web site reviews to ensure people aren't posting sensitive material over the Internet.

The DoD considers MySpace and Facebook to be the biggest threats as they create the potential for individuals to inadvertently post security information.

"Recent reviews of MySpace and Facebook profiles belonging to Iwakuni Marines and sailors turned up nothing for concern for base security," said Samuels.

Other than individuals expressing dissatisfaction with their assignment on social networking Web sites, no compromising data was posted.

"But that's not to say the concern is not ongoing," said Samuels. "Service members here must always be mindful of what they post on the internet and who they talk with out in town."

# The Camera Guy

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

IWAKUNI APPROACH PHOTOGRAPHY COLUMNIST

Listen to this story. Joe Shutterbug picks up a camera at his local electronics department. He presses the zoom button, watches the camera expand in size while an image of his girlfriend's nostrils is blown to magnificent proportions on the camera's shiny liquid-crystal display. Joe belts out in laughter and says, "Oooooooo! I want to buy this one!" The same night, Joe is sitting next to his girlfriend at a party and watches her begin to fall out of her chair. As Joe reaches for his camera and tries to zoom out enough to capture the scene, he realizes the lens can't fit his girlfriend's entire debacle into the shot. Before Joe can get out of his chair, the moment is already lost! Joe didn't realize it at the electronics department, but his new camera has no wide-angle capabilities. We can all learn from Joe's mistake.

Nearly every camera lens has a funny mess of numbers printed somewhere near the glass. On point-and-shoot cameras, a lot of these numbers say something like 6.5-25mm or 10x zoom. On professional lenses that can be used on high-end cameras, these numbers may say 50mm or 18-200mm — some of them even 800mm or 1000mm! But what do all these numbers mean and which numbers are the best for every-

# What is focal length?

day photographers?

These numbers are measurements of the distance between the optical center of the lens and the focal point (i.e., the camera's digital sensor or the surface of the 35mm film), otherwise known as focal length. Basically, these numbers will indicate how much of the scene the camera will be able to see, using a very precise measurement.

Photographers can use these numbers to determine which lens is necessary for accomplishing a specific task. Although most consumers can see just how powerful their camera's lens is by pressing the zoom button, they may like to know whether or not their lens is good for more than just a few shooting situations.

As a lens' focal length gets shorter, the lens' angle-of-view increases. A lens with a fixed focal length (a lens that does not zoom) never changes its angle-of-view. Likewise, when the focal length is a larger measurement, the angle is very narrow.

To demonstrate this effect, make a circle with your thumb and index finger. If you look through the circle at an arm's-length away, you only see a very small portion of your immediate surroundings. If you bring the circle right up to your eye and look through, you can see

more of the scene. Now stop it. You look silly and you're embarrassing me. By the way, if you show your friends this example and they look through the hole, you get to punch them once for free.

Now that you know a little about the effects of focal length, you can shop a little smarter next time at the electronics department.

Photographers who want to capture landscapes and indoor scenes might try using a wide-angle lens with a very short focal length.

When making portraits, taking pictures of small insects or something off in the distance, a lens with an extensive focal length or telephoto capabilities might be necessary. When shopping for the most useful point-and-shoot camera, it might be best to shop for one that has the most range from wide-angle to telephoto. The best way to capture moments that happen right next to you is with a wide-angle lens. This style of lens produces images that somewhat emulate the angle-of-view humans can see with their own eyes.

The Camera Guy is an education column designed to offer consumer and technical guidance for photography enthusiasts. For tips, suggestions and questions, contact Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez at kyle.ramirez@usmc.mil.





LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Explosive Ordnance Disposal bow their heads for a prayer during Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Hansen's memorial service. More than 450 people attended the afternoon service. Hansen was a native of Tracy, Calif.

## Station pays tribute to local fallen Marine

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

He was a son, a brother, a friend and a Marine.

Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Hansen was many things to many people, so when the tragic news of his death spread, family and friends felt everything from shock to denial.

Nearly a week after the tragedy, a memorial ceremony was held at the chapel here. Anyone faced with denial would soon come to the realization that he was really gone.

Hansen, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, was killed in action Feb. 14 in Afghanistan.

Hansen, a native of Tracy, Calif. was killed by a improvised explosive device blast in the Farah province.

After Hansen's death, he was promoted posthumously to the rank of staff sergeant.

On Feb. 18, the Department of Defense announced Hansen's death. Following the announcement, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger ordered all state capital flags to be flown at half mast in honor of the fallen Marine.

"Sgt. Daniel Hansen fought tirelessly to defend the values of freedom and liberty that define our nation," said Schwarzenegger. "He was a courageous Marine who dedicated his life to serving his fellow Americans, and his sacrifice will always be remembered. Maria and I offer our thoughts and prayers to Daniel's family and friends as they mourn this terrible loss."

Hansen and his identical twin

brother joined the Marine Corps the moment they graduated high school in 2002.

From the very beginning, Hansen showed a promising future, quickly picking up two promotions and receiving Yankee White clearance, a requirement for members working directly with the president.

In less than two years after he enlisted, Lance Cpl. Hansen was providing security for the president of the United States at Camp David. In early 2006, as a corporal, Hansen deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq.

When he returned from deployment, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and then assigned to EOD School in Florida.

After nearly a year of training, he was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 with the III Marine Expeditionary Force here.

While at Iwakuni, Hansen quickly developed a reputation for being reliable and motivated.

"If he saw something that needed to be done, he would step up and take care of it," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian

E. Brach, an EOD officer here. "For example, when we went on deployment to Australia, there wasn't a platoon sergeant. Without hesitation, Hansen stepped up to the plate and took charge of the platoon. I knew I could always rely on Hansen to get the job done."

In October of 2008, less than a year into his tour in Japan, Hansen deployed to Afghanistan. "He was young, but he was ready," said Lt. Col. Christopher A. Feyedele, MWSS-171 commanding officer. "I could see it in his eyes."

Hansen's identical twin brother, Matthew Hansen, recalled a phone conversation he had with Daniel during an interview with MarineTimes, "I had asked my brother after he told me of his upcoming deployment if he wanted to go. He said, 'It doesn't matter if I wanna go or not. If I don't, they will send another Marine, and I would never be able to hold my head up if something happened to him in my place.'"

On the day of Hansen's memorial, grayish clouds filled the sky. More than 450 Marines,

sailors, and civilians took their seats and lined up against the walls to pay their respects to a Marine who inspired so many.

A display of flowers and photos lay underneath the chapel's cross while Hansen's rifle and helmet stood at attention in front of the congregation.

At the end of the service, Sgt. Maj. Timothy A. Crisp called role. One by one, members of MWSS-171 EOD stood up, snapping to attention. After the last Marine's name in attendance was called, Crisp called one more.

"Staff Sergeant Hansen. Staff Sergeant Daniel Louis Hansen!" shouted Crisp.

Hansen was gone. He was really gone and with no one to respond to his name, a deafening silence filled the chapel.

After the service ended, people lined up in front of Hansen's display to individually pay their respects.

As Marines left the chapel, they reminisced about Hansen. They vowed to exercise more, to stay motivated and to try their hardest to emulate his undying affection for the Marine Corps.

"I will always remember that smirk he had," said Staff Sgt. Aron Cheatham, an EOD technician. "He did what he loved. He loved being a Marine."

Hansen will always be alive because he was a Marine. He may not be at work on Monday or running on the seawall, but he will live on in our beloved Marine Corps.

Hansen has joined the ranks of heroes who have died for our country. Every time Taps plays, he and all the others who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom will be remembered. He will never be forgotten.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

In memory of Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Hansen (Aug. 20, 1984 - Feb. 14, 2009)



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Cpl. Raymond Vanwey, an assistant deputy family readiness officer with Marine Air and Logistics Squadron 12, assists foster children and a staff member prepare a sauce during a cook-off at the Yahata Gakuen foster home in Hiroshima Feb. 21. The cook-off gave the foster children an opportunity to cook and eat an American meal prepared by their own efforts with the help of Marines.

## Marines, community members bring taste of America to orphans

### Visit leaves orphans with new friends and life-long memories

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and community members prepared food with Japanese orphans ages 6 to 17 years old as the scents of spiced grilled buffalo wings permeated the air in the kitchen of a foster home.

The giggling children looked on with curiosity and anxiously gave a try at cooking for the first time with the help of Marine volunteers.

Marines and community members volunteered their time to teach the children of Yahata Gakuen foster home in Hiroshima how to work together and cook American meals Feb. 21.

While the cook-off gave the Japanese children an opportunity to practice basic math skills by measuring ingredients and use conversational English they've studied, it also gave them the chance at building friendships and making lasting memories with the Marines and community members who volunteered their time.

"All of the children have come from broken families and some were abused by their mother or father," said Motoko Murakami, the director of the Yahata Gakuen foster home. "I try to give them good experiences and memories for when they grow up."

Murakami said the children find events like the cook-off very enjoyable, and while it gave them pleasant memories for the future, it also exposed them to the ways and foods of a different culture.

The Marines and community

members spent the morning and part of the afternoon teaching the foster children the value of teamwork as they all cooked buffalo wings, pizza and red velvet cakes in teams.

When they finished preparing the meals and sat down to eat, the Marines and children all shared a sense of accomplishment at finishing a task together and with their own hands.

"I had fun," said Kait Nishimura, an 11-year-old at the Yahata Gakuen foster home. "We did everything together. I've realized that people can work together and have fun. I've never experienced these feelings before."

While the children had new feelings of joy and accomplishment during the cook-off, the volunteering Marines and community members gained memories and learned their own lessons.

"Volunteer work is something to live for and makes you feel good," said Lance Cpl. Samantha Blount, a ground supply clerk for Marine Aircraft Ground Squadron 12. "If I make a kid happy, it makes me happy, it makes me feel better, and lets me know I'm doing good things."

Blount said volunteering at foster homes and working with children inspires her to always do the right thing.

Volunteer work provides her with memories for the future when she might need them, Blount said.

Sgt. Tchaikawsky Samuels, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 airspeed program analyst has volunteered his time



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Mai Yanagihara, a clerk at the Marine Mart seven day store, helps foster children spice buffalo wings during a cook-off at the Yahata Gakuen foster home in Hiroshima Feb. 21. Community members like Yanagihara also volunteered their time at the foster home alongside the Marines.



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Foster children from the Yahata Gakuen foster home in Hiroshima mix together sauces during a cook-off hosted at their home by Marines and community members Feb. 21. The cook-off gave the children an opportunity to become closer and work together at accomplishing a task with their own hands.

to orphanages and foster homes for the past five years.

Samuels said he hopes that some of the volunteering Marines will be inspired to host their own visits to orphanages and take some of their own time to visit the children.

"When children are young they're impressionable," said Samuels.

"It's usually memories like this that they take with them and that they will use to build

their foundation and form their opinions," Samuels added.

When the cook-off came to an end and everyone ate their fill, the volunteering Marines and community members loaded in their vehicles and drove away as the children lined up and waved them goodbye.

"I'm very grateful to the Marines and had fun with them," said Nishimura. "I hope the Marines will keep the new friendship with us going."





James F. Lowell, a Basic Riders Course instructor, explains to one of his students the course he must follow to perfect his cornering skills. During the course, the students begin with straight-line riding, turning, shifting and stopping. They then progress into cornering, swerving and emergency braking.

# HOGWILD!



## Basic Riders Course gets motors running

Personnel taking the Basic Riders Course must acquire their own safety gear prior to taking the course. Mandatory gear includes a helmet, gloves, reflective vest, supportive rubber-soled boots, long-sleeve T-shirt and long trousers. This gear is also mandatory for all service members who operate a motorcycle aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.



A student takes his final written exam on the last day of the Basic Riders Course, which is a mandatory course for all service members to operate a motorcycle aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. The Basic Riders Course offered here is a two-day course that combines classroom and practical instruction.



Students practice stopping and starting drills during the practical portion of the Basic Riders Course. The Basic Riders Course is taught each week at the station safety center for classroom instruction and at a designated area on the flight line for practical instruction.

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Basic Riders Course is mandatory for all personnel, regardless of their skill level, to operate a motorcycle aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

The course is free to all station personnel and taught by instructors who are accredited by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF).

“The Department of Defense has brought this course to installations around the world in its push to encourage motorcycle safety and training,” said James L. Lowell, Basic Riders Course instructor.

“I see a gamut of riders enroll in the course, ranging from experienced to inexperienced riders,” Lowell added.

The Basic Riders Course is a two-day course that combines classroom and practical riding instruction.

The aim of the course is to teach students how to operate a motorcycle safely, especially in traffic.

Students begin with straight-line riding, turning, shifting and stopping. They then progress into cornering, swerving and emergency braking.

“The Basic Riders Course teaches safety and fundamentals to new riders and is also a good refresher for

experienced riders,” said Sgt. Dennis W. Laferty, an experienced rider enrolled in the course.

“But the best thing about it is that it’s free,” he added.

Most states require individuals to take an MSF course prior to obtaining their license.

“For civilians, these courses can range anywhere from five to 600 dollars,” said Laferty.

Since the Basic Riders Course offered here is accredited by the MSF, individuals can use their certificates when applying for a stateside motorcycle license.

The Basic Riders Course is taught each week at the station safety office for classroom instruction and at a designated area on the flight line for practical instruction.

The station safety center will provide a training motorcycle for those who do not own a bike.

The safety center maintains five Hyosung GT 250 motorcycles.

Individuals must call the station safety center at 253-6381 to enroll in the course.

According to Marine Corps Order 5100.19E, personnel will not be charged leave to attend the Basic Riders Course.

Instead, they will need to possess a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) license and have permission from their chain of command to attend the course.



Hyosung GT 250 motorcycles are owned and maintained by the station safety center for use during the Basic Riders Course. The station safety center provides five training motorcycles for those who do not own a bike.

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

# Chance of a lifetime



Maj. Wayne Magrisi (Left), executive officer for Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, and Maj. Brendan O’Connell, aircraft maintenance officer with VMFA (AW)-242, help to strap Lance Cpl. James Brewer into an F/A-18 Hornet for his incentive flight Feb. 17 at Utaphao Airfield, Thailand.

## 3 Marines, 1 sailor get chance to fly in F/A-18 Hornet

LANCE CPL. DANIEL A. FLYNN  
CAMP SMEDLEY D. BUTLER,  
OKINAWA

**UTAPHAO AIRFIELD, Thailand** — Three Marines and one sailor with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 got the chance of a lifetime Feb. 17 – a flight in an F/A-18 Hornet.

VMFA (AW)-242 is deployed to Thailand in support of Exercise Cobra Gold which is a joint, coalition multinational exercise focused on promoting regional peace and stability.

The four service members were given the honor of flying in the F/A-18 because they all have carried out their duties in a highly professional manner and are stellar performers in the workplace.

Petty Officer 1st Class Juden Ramos was the Marine Aircraft Group 12 Sailor of the Year in 2007, Cpl. Matthew Van Dyke was awarded Marine of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter of 2008, Cpl. Aaron Van Gundy was meritoriously promoted in December of 2008, and Lance Cpl. James Brewer was meritoriously promoted in September of 2008.

When a unit notices that a specific Marine is doing an outstanding job, the Marine’s accomplishments are evaluated to decide if he merits the opportunity ride in an F/A-18. If it is determined that the Marine does rate the jet ride, a package is put together and sent to the wing headquarters for approval, according to Master Sgt. Rene Bedit, ordnance chief with VMFA(AW)-242.

Before getting into a jet, all of the preflight requirements must be met to include flight suit fittings, medical screenings and aircraft briefings, according to Bedit.

“For a maintenance Marine who works on these aircraft on a daily basis, the chance to fly in one is worth its weight in gold,” said Bedit.

The general consensus on the hour-long flight – “it was awesome” – the answer given by everyone when asked what they



The four service members who were given the opportunity to fly in F/A-18 Hornets at Utaphao Airfield, Thailand stand with the pilots who took them up Feb. 17, from left, Capt. Christopher Tousant, Petty Officer 1st Class Juden Ramos, Cpl. Matthew Van Dyke, Capt. Daniel Flatley, Maj. Wayne Magrisi, Executive Officer for Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Lance Cpl. James Brewer, Cpl. Aaron Van Gundy and Maj. Stephen Blackmarr.

thought about the flight.

“It was an amazing, once in a lifetime experience,” said Brewer.

“We did everything except drop ordnance,” according to Van Dyke.

The incentive flight program is an outstanding morale builder that motivates the Marines to continue bettering themselves in every aspect, according to Bedit.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament**  
The Fil-Am Iwakuni will sponsor the 4-Man Scramble Golf tournament on April. 18. Showtime is at 11:30 a.m., shotgun start at noon. Prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place teams. Free Lumpia, adobo, rice and drinks. Proceeds from this event will be donated to a Children’s Orphanage Charity in the Philippines and to a local Iwakuni Orphanage. \$29 for non-member, \$19 for member. Green fee included. Open to all personnel. For more information, call 253-6084.

**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 the 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 and master workshop origin together with superb silk examples. All lots with certificates of origin, authenticity and 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 March 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 (pinhole 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.

**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 University of Maryland University College 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.

**Cookies...cookies...cookies...**  
Yes that’s right, Girl Scouts Cookies are here. The delicious taste of Caramel deLites, PB Patties, Shortbread, Thin

Mints, PB Sandwich, Thank-A-Lot, Lemonades and the new reduced fat Daisy Go Rounds can all be yours for \$3.50 a box. Girl Scout Cookies are an icon of American culture. They’re also the backbone of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the leading entrepreneurial program for girls. Proceeds from your purchase support Girl Scouts in your community. For more information, call Girl Scouts Hut at 253-6037 or 3075.

**Iwakuni Girl Scouts want 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.

**PMO Lost & Found**  
The Provost Marshal’s Office lost and found section has various items that have been turned in tracking back to 2006. Currently, we have the following items: keys, wallets with contents, jewelry, watches, U.S. Passports, cell phones, dog tags, electronics, CDs and more. If you have misplaced anything, please call PMO at 253-5105 or send an e-mail to carrie.morse@usmc.mil

## SAKURA THEATER

**Friday, Feb. 27 2009**  
7 p.m. Bride Wars (PG)  
*Premier*  
10 p.m. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13)  
*Premier*

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009**  
12:30 p.m. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13)  
4 p.m. The Spirit (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Defiance (R)  
*Premier*  
10 p.m. Bride Wars (PG)

**Sunday, March 1, 2009**  
1 p.m. Bride Wars (PG)

**Monday, March 2, 2009**  
7 p.m. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13)

**Tuesday, March 3, 2009**  
7 p.m. Defiance (R)

**Wednesday, March 4, 2009**  
7 p.m. The Spirit (PG-13)

**Thursday, March 5, 2009**  
7 p.m. He’s Just Not That Into You (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](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Automobiles

**1998 Delica**  
Seats 8, automatic, diesel, 4WD. Great for the mountains and skiing! A/C and heat for front and back, back has its own controllers. Excellent for outdoor activities. Great for long trips. Seats fold down for lots of storage space. Front seat turns around, and seats also lay down to make a bed great for camping. Power windows. Car runs great and well maintained. Oil changed regularly. Asking \$ 4,000 OBO. We are moving to the States and need to sell ASAP! Serious callers only please! Call 253-2156 (home) or 253-6358 (work).

## Mess Hall Menu

**Monday**  
Bean wtht bacon soup, shrimp gumbo soup, caribbean flounder, country style steak, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, hush puppies, broccoli combo, wax beans, dinner rolls, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake with butter cream frosting, banana cream pudding  
Specialty Bar: Pasta

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

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

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

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

**Nissan Cube**  
Under 150,000 km. Heat and A/C works great. Economical and fuel efficient. 4-door automatic with keyless entry, power windows. New radio with removable face, remote control, MP3 compatible. Car runs great, well maintained. Oil changed regularly. JCI runs until August 2010. Seats 4. Seats lay down for storage of big items. You can open the hatch or just the glass for plenty of space for groceries. Asking \$ 2,500 OBO. We are moving to the States and need to sell ASAP. Serious callers only please! Call 253-2156 (home) or 253-6358 (work).

**1994 Mazda MPV Van**  
\$1,150. Good dependable van, seat 7 people, new battery, working A/C and heat, clean interior, snow chains, 10-disc CD player. JCI until July 2009. For more information, call 253-2753 (home) or 080-3504-4017 (cell).

**1990 & 1993 Skyline GTRs**  
This is essentially a two for one sale. The grey GTR is the one for sale and second blue GTR has been parted out, you get both of them. This is the twin turbo, all wheel drive, all wheel steering model. Too many parts and upgrades to list. All parts are located on base. \$9,000 firm. Starting price for GTRs off base is around \$8,000. For more information, call 080-3474-8856 (cell) or email to potwic@gmail.com.

**1997 Honda Step Wagon Van**  
JCI Jan. 2010, seats seven, CD changer. \$2,700 OBO. For more information, call 253-2124 (home), 253-4606 (work), or 080-6612-9195 (cell).

**1999 Toyota Fun Cargo Van**  
JCI Dec. 2011, seats five, CD, back seat folds into floor. \$3,500 OBO. For more information, call 253-2124 (home), 253-4606 (work), or 080-6612-9195 (cell).

**1998 Mitsubishi Galant**  
JCI until October 2009. Clean, quick, dependable, spoiler, silver, low miles, CD player, power everything, great for getting around Japan. Asking \$2,700 OBO. For more information, call 080-3439-7959 (cell).

**1997 Nissan Largo**  
Clean, dependable, great heat and A/C, CD player. JCI until March 2010. Low miles, seats 7. Asking \$3,000. For more information, please call 080-3705-2981 (cell) or 080-3439-7959 (cell).

**1998 Mitsubishi Galant**  
Silver, clean, dependable, spoiler. 79,454 miles. JCI until October 2009. Please call 080-3705-2981 (cell) or 080-3439-7959 (cell) for more details.

## Listening to Marines and their families

### Feb. 23 through March 6:

Headquarters Marine Corps is asking Marines, their spouses, children and extended family members to participate in focus groups and a Web-based survey. Feedback received from these efforts will help the newly restructured family readiness program improve overall communication strategies. Feedback analysis will focus on knowledge and awareness of available family readiness programs and services; how information is

**1997 Suzuki Wagon R Wide**  
4-door hatchback. Seats 5. 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 March 10. Asking \$3,200. If interested, call 253-3694 (work) or 253-7301 (home).

**1995 Mitsubishi Diamante**  
Car needs a new transmission (\$2,000 estimate including labor from base repair shop, or install it yourself at the Auto Hobby Shop). V-6 with low miles. Metallic charcoal silver with alloy wheels, crystal clean interior, grey leather, full power, new CD player and speakers (\$500 installed out in town). JCI expires in Feb. 2010. The price has been reduced to \$800 – OBO. For more information, call 253-2356 (home).

## Miscellaneous

**Basic Aus WII Game Console for Sale**  
Asking \$175 OBO. For questions call 080 3345 4965 or email isshownprove@yahoo.com  
Starter Weight set for Sale  
Great starter weight set for the barracks. Leaving Japan and can't take with me. Over \$100 new, asking \$60 OBO. Call 080-3729-5515 (cell) or 253-5608 (work).

## Job Announcement

For WIC Overseas Iwakuni  
Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has opportunities available for a temporary, full-time nutritionist/dietitian/nurse in the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program in Iwakuni. Temporary position begins August 3 – October 2, 2009. Position requires a BS in Nutrition, Nursing or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition desired. Registered Dietitian preferred. Experience in WIC desirable. Must have driver's license. Must be a U.S. citizen.  
Choctaw Management Services Enterprise, a rapidly growing provider of health, social, mental health, and administrative services, will reward your efforts with an attractive salary and benefits package including 401(K), medical/dental/vision, and opportunities for career relocation and growth.  
For immediate consideration, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to Virginia. Johnson.ctr@misawa.af.mil or fax to Virginia Johnson at 226-9585. You may also come to the Iwakuni WIC office in building 411 or call us at 253-4408.

*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.*

# Far East Basketball Tournament



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

The Osan American High School girls basketball team of Osan Air Base, South Korea, pauses from celebrating their 41-37 victory over Robert D. Edgren High School of Misawa, Japan, in the 2009 Far East Basketball Tournament held Feb. 20 at the IronWorks gym here to pose for a team photograph. Jasmine Pressley was the Cougar's stand-out player during the tournament.

## Osan Cougars edge Edgren Eagles, 41-37

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2009 Far East Basketball Girls Class A Tournament came to a close here in a tough battle where Osan American High School of Osan Air Base, South Korea, beat Robert D. Edgren High School of Misawa, Japan, 41-37 at IronWorks Gym here Feb. 20.

The tournament was a double-elimination playoff that kicked off Feb. 18 and concluded Feb. 20 with the Osan Cougars taking first place over the Edgren Eagles in an aggressive championship basketball game.

Jasmine Pressley and the Cougars edged Ashley Hawkins and the Eagles after four periods of well-played basketball.

"The competition was very competitive. It took a lot to win," said Celine Baldevia, Osan Cougars team captain.

The Cougars took the lead early in the first period, ending with a 10-7 lead.

During the second period, the Cougars extended their lead to 18-9 and held it throughout the entire game.

During the third period, the Eagles managed to come within four points of the lead 22-18, but ended the period down 24-18.

The Eagles did very well, without a doubt they did an excellent job, said Sarah Richardson, Edgren Eagles coach.

The Eagles played without Imani Wimbush, a key player in their starting line up.

Wimbush was injured in the first period of the game Feb. 19 against Daegu American High School of South Korea.

The Eagles rallied together without Wimbush to beat Daegu 52-40.

It was a tough game from beginning to end with the Eagles on the Cougars' heels each step of the way, but in the end, the Eagles fell five points short of the win.

"I am really proud of our team even though we lost," said Hawkins, Eagles point guard.

Although the Eagles lost, they held their heads high in a respectable fashion, going home with second place and the tournament's Most Valuable Player, Ashley Hawkins.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Jessica Bergman goes up between two Osan Cougar defenders for a rebound during the third period of the 2009 Far East Basketball Tournament Girls Class A Championship game held at the IronWorks gym Feb. 20. The tournament was a two-day double elimination event that kicked off Feb. 18 and concluded Feb. 20.



# 2009 WILD WEST SEABEE BALL

**Today is the last  
day to purchase  
tickets at the SNCO  
Cash Cage for the  
ball, March 6.**

**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**