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NEWS

FEATURE

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 10, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Service members to utilize Patriot Express for PCS

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Patriot Express will be taking its maiden flight on April 4. Before anyone takes a seat on the aircraft there are a few things they need know.

Space available and temporary additional duty passengers may fly the Patriot Express, but the main purpose of the aircraft's return to Iwakuni is to serve those making a permanent change of station. Information concerning space available and temporary additional duty passenger will be addressed in future articles.

The more passengers know and prepare, the faster and easier the entire process will be.

The following is information about checking in, paperwork, pets, luggage and security.

Paperwork: Members must provide proper documentation to fly on the Patriot Express. Proper documentation includes a complete set of orders with all endorsements to those orders, any endorsements from the Travel Management Office, valid identification card, and a valid passport for family members if accompanied by them.

Check-in: Every Saturday starting April 4, the Patriot Express will depart Iwakuni, Japan. Members are required to show up at the terminal two hours and 20 minutes prior to departure. (If flight leaves at 14:15 p.m., then 11:50 a.m. will be the show time).

Early baggage check-in: Members will have an option to check in early for the Patriot Express flight. Early check-in will be done on the Friday prior to the Saturday departure between the hours of 3-7 p.m.

Pets: Members with a pet (cat or dog) can request pet space for their pet to travel from Iwakuni to Seattle. Each member can request one pet space for a maximum of two pet spaces per household. Required paperwork for pets includes a health certificate

Aviation units kick-off Cope Tiger

PFC. CLAUDIO MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — U.S. Marines, Navy and Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and Republic of Singapore Air Force aviation units began Exercise Cope Tiger 2009 here Monday.

Cope Tiger is an annual multilateral joint and combined field training exercise conducted to improve U.S., Thai and Singapore readiness and interoperability with an overall participation of approximately 2,300 service members.

Supporting the exercise are Iwakuni-based pilots and maintenance personnel of Marine Aircraft Group

12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 224, and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12.

Major Thomas Smolenski, MAG-12 officer-in-charge, said the exercise is done to conduct combined force training alongside Thai and Singaporean service members, which is useful in fostering a good working relationship.

Cope Tiger includes dissimilar basic fighting maneuver training, close air support training, tactical airdrop training and large force employment training.

Mission planning and in-flight interoperability training involving air-to-air combat missions

SEE **TIGER** ON PAGE 3

Seabees celebrate 67 years of service



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

Four Seabees unveil the birthday cake during the celebration of the 67th Seabee birthday anniversary held at the Iwakuni ballroom March 6. The "2009 Wild West Seabee Ball" commemorated the ongoing efforts of the small Seabee detachment here and their rich history and tradition of serving and building on the battlefield. Read the full story on page 6 and 7.

SEE **PATRIOT** 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

'For the least of these...'

LT. J.G. ROBERT E. MILLS
STATION CHAPLAIN

The sun was hot, and sweat was dripping down the faces of the Marines as they worked.

There was no cool, air-conditioned place to escape from the relentless heat – not even for a few minutes.

The two corporals worked steadily, faithfully measuring, cutting, fitting, adjusting, welding and carrying heavy materials all day.

They worked more than 40 hours over the course of five work days and when they finished the project it was something they could be proud of and something that would last for many years.

The two Marines were at a school for handicapped young people in Pattaya, Thailand, one of the most beautiful and yet sad places in the whole world.

Pattaya is beautiful because of its smiling people, pristine

beaches and warm breezes.

It is sad because so many of the children there become involved in selling their own bodies to uncaring strangers because their life choices are so limited.

They either sell themselves or starve.

Their choices are so limited because they live in an extremely poor country — one that doesn't have many alternatives for children who don't have any money or any parents to take care of them.

They are the poorest of the poor and those who are handicapped are considered to be even lower.

The two Marines gave their week so that 240 of these handicapped young people could have a wheelchair ramp in their school.

You see, there are several faith-based charities operating in Pattaya — brave people who have seen the enormous need and have stepped up to help "the least of these."

The school had several floors but no safe, convenient way to get the students in wheelchairs from floor to floor.

The two corporals spent more than 40 hours building a ramp so the students of the school could get to their classes, and in an emergency, could quickly escape the building. They gave of themselves so others could benefit.

The Christian Scripture contains a passage that resonates so well with this type of selfless giving: It says, "Just as certainly as you have given yourself to one of the least of these, my brothers, you have given yourself for me..." (Matthew 25:40).

Basically, Jesus is calling his followers to a life of giving for others, a life of selfless service.

You might think that you have to travel far to help "the least of these," but you don't.

If you are interested in participating in community relations projects, give your chaplain or the chapel a call and we'll make sure you get a chance to serve — even right here in Iwakuni.

Storybook character parade floods station streets



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Children from the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School dress up as their favorite storybook characters here March 6. Roughly 500 kindergarten through sixth graders participated in the event that circled the crossroads before returning back to the M.C. Perry playground.

Corps Question

Q. Why can't civilians pay to eat in the mess halls on a regular basis?

A. Marine Corps Order P10110.14, Marine Corps Bulletin 10110, MARADMIN, and Marine Corps Air Station Order 10110.12C indicate the primary mission of the mess halls is to support those enlisted personnel authorized to eat at government expense. Money comes from congress to complete the mission. Allowing civilians to eat in the mess halls on a regular basis is against this policy and detracts from the primary mission of the Marine Corps Food Service.

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

Cope Tiger 2009 begins

TIGER FROM PAGE 1

conducted by two opposing joint aviation elements from each of the participating countries is also planned.

Smolenski said the interoperability training is slated to begin with one aircraft versus one aircraft and quickly build up to two versus two which will culminate into the last portion of the exercise involving approximately 60 aircraft.

The training conducted during Cope Tiger allows participating personnel to break free from their comfort zone and gives the service members an opportunity to work in new environments where they get to train with other forces, Smolenski said.

While Exercise Cope Tiger focuses on the combat air-to-air and air-to-ground missions carried out by the fighter pilots, safety and maintenance personnel working on the flightline and on the aircraft also benefit from the training conducted during the exercise.

Sgt. Brandon Domel, a power plant mechanic with VMFA(AW)-224, said the exercise provides the mechanics and safety personnel with good experiences to see how the Thai Landers and Singaporeans work different aspects of their jobs.

Working alongside the Thais and



PFC. CLAUDIO MARTINEZ

Two Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All-Weather) 224 F/A-18D Hornets take to the skies during exercise Cope Tiger 2009 at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Cope Tiger is an annual multilateral joint and combined field training exercise conducted to improve U.S., Thai and Singapore readiness and interoperability.

Singaporeans also presents the American service members with the opportunity to test their skills against professional pilots of other nations.

Humanitarian and community relations projects have been slated to take place during the exercise to further strengthen and promote the existing relationship between the United States and its participating allies.

Service members slated to participate in

the community relations projects will donate their time and efforts during scheduled visits to local Thai orphanages and schools where they will pass out toys and school supplies to children.

Domel said that while the exercise offers good training, it also presents a great opportunity to strengthen good relations with allies.

This year marks the 15th year all three nations have conducted Exercise Cope Tiger.

Patriot Express: Specifics when executing PCS orders

PATRIOT FROM PAGE 1

(no more than 10 days old) and vaccination records (can be more than 30 days, but less than a year). All pets must be in a hard cage with enough room for the pet to stand up and turn around. The pet fees and weight, which includes the kennel, are:

Under 70 pounds: \$103.00
70-139 pounds: \$206.00
140-150 pounds (maximum): \$309.00

Pets cannot fly in the main cabin with passengers. All pets will be held in the cargo area. If seats are available for passengers, but not for pets, members are still required to fly the Patriot Express.

Luggage: Each person traveling on the Patriot Express is authorized two pieces of luggage not exceeding 70 pounds each and one carry-on. Luggage that exceeds 70 pounds will incur an excess baggage fee of \$103. Maximum

weight for excess baggage is 100 pounds, any luggage weighing more than 100 pounds will not be checked in.

Security: While going through security, people will need to remove their shoes, belts, jackets, etc., before entering the security detector. Liquids will be placed in a 3-ounce or smaller container. Small containers must fit in 1-quart size clear plastic bag. Only one bag per customer can be placed in the security bin.

DOD introduces new era of government ID cards

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Social Security Number has been used as a means to efficiently identify and authenticate individuals, but the threat of identity theft has rendered widespread use unacceptable for all federal agencies.

In early 2008, the Office of Management and Budget issued requirements for the protection of personally identifiable information, such as the use of SSNs.

The department has developed the Department of Defense SSN Reduction Plan, which will eliminate the use of visible SSNs on identification cards.

The reduction plan requires all federal agencies to eliminate, when feasible, their use of SSNs.

The removal of SSNs will occur in three phases. Phase one is the removal of dependents' SSNs from Teslin cards, the identification and

privilege cards for family members of DOD personnel.

Sponsors' SSNs will remain visible.

In phase two, SSNs will be removed from all identification cards with the exception of Geneva Convention identification cards.

Geneva Convention cards will be reduced to showing only the last four digits of the cardholder's SSN.

Phase three is the removal of SSNs embedded in barcodes on all government issued identification cards.

Phase one has been completed, phase two is currently in progress, and phase three is scheduled to begin during calendar year 2012.

"Cards do not have to be updated. They will be updated as they expire unless there is a promotion or change of information," said Wanda Dariso, site security manager for the installation personnel administration center.

The new ID cards can be used at all locations

where current ID cards are accepted.

According to the Office of Management and Budget, it will be several years along with planned system upgrades before the visible display of sponsors' SSNs on ID cards will be removed.

These changes are consistent with the overall DOD policy to reduce the use of the SSN and reinforce the growing DOD culture of protection for personally identifiable information.

Consistent with DOD's stance, these planned changes are designed to reduce the risk of identity theft to the DOD ID card population while maintaining continuity of DOD business processes.

"It's better not having the SSN on the ID cards. Information is not out there that doesn't need to be," said Dariso.

For more information regarding the SSN reduction plan, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard.

Road Tax Due April 2009

Road Tax must be paid by April 30 to drive

All payments must be made in Yen.

Heavy Vehicle Information

Plate:	Cost:
100Y _____	¥ 32,000
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E, 329Y, 330Y, 331Y more than 4,501cc _____	¥ 22,000
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y, 529Y, 530Y, 531Y, 500E less than 4,501cc _____	¥ 19,000
	¥ 7,500

■April 8 through 10, tax collectors from the city will be at the Provost Marshal's Office pass and registration section and heavy vehicle owners only will be able to pay their tax.
■Heavy Vehicles will pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Parking is free in the rear of the building.
■Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to the pass and registration section of the PMO building, to receive your new base decal:
- Japanese title, secondary insurance, the vehicle or motorcycle, Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI) and new road tax receipt

Light vehicle and motorcycle information

Plate:	Cost:
50A, 40A, 580A _____	¥ 3,000
YAMA A, B _____	¥ 1,000
IWAKUNI A, B, C _____	¥ 500

■Light Vehicles and motorcycles will pay road tax on the second floor of City Hall located across from the police station from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Parking is free.
■Maps to the new Symphonia building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO pass and registration section. For any other questions, contact pass and registration at 253-3161.
■To avoid the long lines of the "last minute rush" at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal early in April.
■April 30 the PMO pass and registration section will only be open for renewing decals. No other business will take place during this time.

Failure to pay road tax can result in the impoundment of your vehicle.

ARC month recognizes donors, volunteers

KATHERINE C JONES
CONTRIBUTED

Across the United States, March is recognized as American Red Cross Month. As one of the nation's best known humanitarian organizations, the Red Cross has been at the forefront of helping Americans prevent, prepare for and respond to large and small disasters for over 125 years. Communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of

the American people to achieve its mission.

This year the Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces Station at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is taking time in March to focus on the volunteers and employees who demonstrate such compassion and generosity by supporting the Red Cross in the Iwakuni community and around the world. We rely on these everyday heroes to give their time and talents to help others through cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid and automated external defibrillator training, to coordinate military case work and briefings, make financial donations, or simply work in the office so our doors can remain open.

Over the past year, the American Red Cross has begun the process of reenergizing our services world wide, including MCAS

Iwakuni and we are looking for more "Hometown Heroes" to join our ranks. No matter your time, skill or commitment level, the American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces Station on MCAS Iwakuni can use your help. Through volunteering at the Red Cross you will help us change the lives of those who are stationed here. Across this community, the Red Cross is an organization people can rely on for help, comfort, assistance and compassion. On behalf of the MCAS Iwakuni Red Cross, I thank you for your support to help us reenergize and continue our service to those in who need us, every day. And a special thanks to all of our "Hometown Heroes", the volunteers who step up and the service members who push on, our gratitude is the least we can offer.

March Promotions

H&HS
Lance Cpl.
Carlson, Ahsha M.
Cooper Jr., Robert L.
Dixon, Matthew B.
Faesser, Runya C.
Frazier, Kevin D.
Hale, Gordon L.
Lewis, Steven W.
Martin, Gary R.
Raufmann, John M.
Ruggieri Jr., Donald L.
Sharp, Samuel A.
Shen, Cheng W.
Turner, William B.
Weid, Andre
Cpl.
Cpl. Brewster, Amber B.
Cpl. Brown, Alexander F.
Cpl. Eno, Victoria L.
Sgt.
Figueroa, Robert M.
Cpl.
Staff Sgt.
Wallen, Cavel R.
Whited, Shane D.

MWSS-171
Lance Cpl.
Cole III, Medford L.
Cruz, Rafael L.
Curley, Corey L.
Dillingham, Nicholas C.
Ditoro, Gregory R.
Erwin, Andrew E.
Gamber, Bradley P.
Gradford, Tamaar J.
Gurney, David B.
Hickerson Jr., Theodore D.
Leon, Donnato
McCormick, Scott S.
Meza, Felix A.
Morenotuesta, Dick J.
Pate, Amber N.
Rhodes, April L.
Scarpello, Robert J.
Valdivia, Rodolfo
Wolley, Nicholas P.
Zak, Stephanie L.
Cpl.
Bendig, Coby R.
Nickell, Joshua G.
Sgt.
Powells, Aaron K.

Staff Sgt.
Simpson, Saintclare L.
Smith, Michael L.
Wade, Dianne
MALS-12
Pfc.
Winner, Susan M.
Lance Cpl.
Ashley, Dustin C.
Brown Jr., Phillip C.
Christensen, Rachel N.
Desouza, Brian T.
Gregg, Matthew R.
Hennion, Aaron C.
Jackson, Michael O.
Millington, Nicholas A.
Oleafonseca, Jorge
Cpl.
Bessard, Dwight
Campuzano, Fernando E.
Dunton, Christopher M.
Hibbett, Basye K.
Mafnas, Tyrone F.
Taylor, Patrick D.
Torian, Keason M.
Veloz, Jeromy L.
Yang, David Y.

Sgt.
Heath, Kevin M.
Villagrancia, Christopher M.
Gunnery Sgt.
Montanogalaz, Jesus G.

CLC-36
Lance Cpl.
Banks, Michael M.
Holdorf, Cory R.
Marsh, Aaron W.
Martin, William A.
Cpl.
Arenas, Natalia
Guerrero, Juan
MAG-12
Lance Cpl.
Zimmerman, James S.

VMFA-242
Sgt.
Callahan, Russell P.

Detachment Bravo
Lance Cpl.
Schmidt, Toby A.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

A young station resident is fitted with a Kimono dress during the Girls' Festival held at the Shinnanyo Fureai Center in Shunan City March 7. Visitors from 11 different countries attended the festival which allowed Japanese kids to observe other cultures through their guests.

Girl's Festival encourages cultural exchange between Japanese and Americans

■Youth cultural program plans to return the favor here April 11

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services' Youth Cultural Program strives to expose young station residents and their families to as much Japanese culture as possible while they're stationed here.

Coincidentally, the Shunan International Children's Club from Shunan City has a similar mission.

Their mission entails exposing Japanese children to other cultures while at the same time helping foreigners learn about theirs.

To achieve this goal, Mamoru Sasamura, the club's director, invited children from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and their parents to attend the annual Girls' Festival held at the Shinnanyo Fureai Center in Shunan City March 7.

"We invited visitors from 11 different countries to attend the festival and felt privileged to invite Americans stationed in Iwakuni," said Sasamura.

"We invite Americans so they can discover our culture and to give our kids an impression of what Americans are like," Sasamura added.

Upon receiving the invitation, Taeko Yokoyama, Youth Cultural Program coordinator, organized a trip to Shunan City to give station residents a taste of Japanese culture and become part of this cultural exchange.

Girls' Festival or Girl's Day is observed March 3 throughout

Japan as a day to commemorate girls' role in Japanese culture.

American children and their parents witnessed dance ensembles by Japanese girls dressed in elaborate kimonos, followed by a rice pounding event and a tea ceremony.

Before heading back to the station, young American girls tried on kimonos and learned basic dance routines.

"We're very fortunate to have a relationship with the Shunan International Children's Club," said Yokoyama. "It's cultural exchanges such as these that open up the kids' eyes to different cultures and nationalities."

As a way to say thanks to the Shunan International Children's Club for inviting Americans to the event, the Youth Cultural Program is organizing a community and base friendship exchange scheduled to take place April 11 at the Multipurpose Activity Center Dome.

All station residents are invited as well as the families of Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force personnel and other guests traveling from Shunan city.

The event will try to showcase typical American tradition such as hot dog stands, cotton candy machines, balloon making, and an array of games and activities fun for children and parents alike.

For more information regarding upcoming exchanges and the events scheduled to take place inside the Mac Dome April 11, residents can call the Youth Cultural Program at 253-5900.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

A Japanese girl dressed in a typical kimono dress performs at the Girls' Festival held at the Shinnanyo Fureai Center in Shunan City March 7. Young station residents and their parents witnessed dance ensembles by young Japanese girls and then had an opportunity to try on Kimonos for themselves and learn basic dance routines.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

An American and Japanese girl enjoy eating freshly made Mochi, a rice cake, during the Girls' Festival held at the Shinnanyo Fureai Center in Shunan City March 7. The event sought to expose foreigners to Japanese tradition while at the same time exposing Japanese children to other cultures.

2009 WILD WEST SEABEE BALL



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric M. Swann, the youngest Seabee serving here, and Chief Petty Officer Denzil Bauer, the oldest Seabee serving here, make a triumphant entry into the ballroom here March 6 during the 67th Seabee birthday ball. Swann wore a bib while Bauer limped on a cane to bring humor to the celebration and subsequent cake cutting ceremony.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, Col. Mark R. Wise, Marine Aircraft Group 12 commanding officer, and Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, prepare to compete in a nail-driving contest at the 67th Seabee birthday held at the Iwakuni ballroom March 6. Ardesse proved victorious, winning the competition with his eyes open and blindfolded.

We build, we fight: Seabees celebrate 67 years of service

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members and their guests celebrated the 67th anniversary of the Seabees and the 142nd anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps at the Iwakuni ballroom here March 6.

The evening event or "2009 Wild West Seabee Ball," commemorated the ongoing efforts of the small Seabee detachment here and their rich history and tradition of serving and building on the battlefield.

The ceremony kicked off with a solemn tribute to all the Seabees who have been killed in action

during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

As the names of the fallen Seabees were read from a list, a bell sounded in their honor.

The moment evoked the Seabee motto of "We Build, We Fight," which has held true during every major U.S. conflict since the conception of the Seabees in World War II.

The guest speaker at the event was Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse, commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. During his speech, Ardesse told the story of Marvin Glenn Shields, the first and only Seabee to receive the Medal of

Honor.

In addition to telling Shields' story and expressing his admiration to all the Seabees who have served in combat, Ardesse made a shocking confession.

"There was a time when I too wanted to be a Seabee," he confessed. "Except I figured out you had to be good at math, so I became a Marine instead."

Following Ardesse's speech, the youngest and oldest Seabees entered the room and made the first cuts into a massive cake, which had to be carried in by four Seabees.

After this, the Seabees set up a nail-driving contest to test the

construction skills of select members of the station's senior leadership.

Ardesse swept the competition, beating his opponents with his eyes open and blindfolded.

Soon afterward, closing remarks were said, the ceremony came to a close, and fun on the dance floor began.

"The party didn't stop until one in the morning," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael R. Stowe, a Seabee serving here.

"The night was a great opportunity for us to meet with each others' families, build camaraderie and have the kind of fun that is had in celebrations like these."



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

With the assistance of Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse, commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, the oldest and youngest Seabees serving here cut out a piece of their massive cake. The ball celebrated the 67th anniversary of the Seabees and the 142nd anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

A Seabee color guard stands tall before ceremonies began during the 67th Seabee birthday held at the Iwakuni ballroom March 6. The "2009 Wild West Seabee Ball," commemorated the ongoing efforts of the small Seabee detachment here and their rich history and tradition of serving and building on the battlefield.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

Chief Petty Officer Michael Jensen rings a bell in honor of the Seabees who have died in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom during the 67th Seabee birthday ball held at the Iwakuni ballroom March 6. This moment evoked their Seabee motto of "We Build, We Fight."

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



CPT. PAUL L. GREENBERG

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq - With the assistance of Xian, an Arabic interpreter, Staff Sgt. Timothy Wenrich (left), a platoon sergeant with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, teaches a class about infantry fire and movement techniques to soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 29th Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division Feb. 23.



CPT. PAUL L. GREENBERG

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq - Reserve Marines from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, demonstrate infantry fire and movement techniques to soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 29th Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division at H3 Airfield Feb. 23. Company E is finishing up a seven-month tour in Iraq and is scheduled to return to its home training center in Harrisburg, Pa. in April.

Marines train next generation of Iraqi soldiers

CAPT. PAUL L. GREENBERG
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 8

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq — The Marines of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, based in Harrisburg, Pa., conducted the last mission of their seven-month tour in Iraq Feb. 23.

The Reserve Marines spent the day teaching actions on enemy contact, and fire and movement techniques to a company of young Iraqi soldiers at H3 airfield, which is home to the 3rd Battalion, 29th Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division.

The Iraqi soldiers watched as the Marines modeled the movement techniques, shouted verbal commands, and rushed across the terrain.

When it was the Iraqis’ turn, they executed with equal motivation and skill.

“They’re going to be one-hundred percent good,” said Capt. Salem Mahmud Ahmed, the Iraqi company commander, brimming with pride as his soldiers practiced bounding forward across the lunar-like surface, advancing toward a notional enemy.

The soldiers, mostly ranging in age from 17-23, recently completed a two-month boot camp and are still learning the fundamentals of infantry tactics, said Ahmed.

Most of their daily routine consists of physical training, patrolling, land navigation and weapons function and maintenance.

Ahmed, who has spent 16 of his 40 years in the Iraqi Army, explained that even though their AK-47 rifles are older than many

of the troops who carry them, this new generation of soldiers has both the training and resolve to maintain security in this remote region of western Al Anbar province.

“It’s amazing. The squad leaders are doing their jobs and the soldiers are responding to their leadership. It shows we’ve accomplished a lot here,” said Sgt. Gerson Duran, the Company E police sergeant.

Duran, who is on his third tour in Iraq, explained that the training was also excellent experience for the junior Marines in his company who are not only learning how to teach, but are also forming friendships with their Iraqi counterparts.

“The courage and commitment I’ve seen in these guys over the past months, it’s amazing,” said Duran. “They deserve a lot of credit.”

Overseeing all the training was Staff Sgt. James Gray, an active duty Marine artilleryman with Military Transition Team 3-29. Gray and his team have lived and worked with the Iraqis for the past three months. They invited the troops from Company E to come out to H3 to provide the Iraqi troops with a different perspective on training.

“They [Company E Marines] are an outside source,” explained Gray. “They are infantrymen. This is their job, their area of expertise. Also, it’s another angle of influence; a different methodology. This way, the Iraqis can choose what works best for them.”

The Reserve Marines of Company E are scheduled to retrograde from their current



CPT. PAUL L. GREENBERG

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq - Under the tutelage of reserve Marines from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, a squad of Iraqi Army soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 29th Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division perform fire and movement techniques at H3 Airfield in a remote location in western Al Anbar desert Feb. 23.

base of operations at Camp Korean Village to Al Asad Air Base in early March. After a brief transition period in California,

they will fly back to their home training center in Harrisburg in April and demobilize, returning to their civilian lives and careers.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New Service at BHC
A visiting pediatrician will be at the BHC March 18. Please contact central appointments at 253-3445 to set up a referral through your Primary Care Doctor.

Girl Scouts Summer Camp 2009
Come and enjoy campfires, story telling, horse back riding, and meeting new friends! Open to girls entering third grade and up. June 21-27 in Tama Hills, Japan. Cost: \$225 per girl (add \$10 if not a girl scout). \$100 per adult. Deadline for sign-up is May 15. Visit www.westpacificgirlscouts.com or call (DSN) 645-2323 (Okinawa) / commercial: 098-970-2323 for more information.

Trouble Conceiving?
Come to a seminar on infertility treatment options with Dr. Atsushi Tanaka, MD. March 26, 5 p.m. in the BHC lobby. All interested base personnel are welcome. For more information contact the BHC at 253-3485.

Credo Spiritual Growth Retreat
How about some time for yourself? How about the opportunity to focus on the spiritual side of your life; the pursuit of a stronger relationship with God, a Higher Power, or according to your particular faith beliefs; to search for spiritual resources to manage daily living? This free retreat at Yamaguchi-Ken Fureai Park is for those of all faiths and runs March 26 until March 28. All

Marine Corps & Navy active duty, reserve, retired personnel and their family members are eligible to attend (Army, Air Force personnel and civilian DoD/DoDDS employees and family members on a space-available basis). To sign-up and for further details, please contact the MCAS Iwakuni Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

North Side/Family Housing Charrette
The Facilities Department is hosting a North Side/Family Housing Area Development Plan charrette in the Building 411 Library, room 121 and 122 on the first floor and would like station personnel and residents to attend. Focus will be the layout of new family housing, North Side facilities and BEQs. March 16, 18, and 20, 1 – 4 p.m. or March 17 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. BEQ residents only. To sign up, contact the facilities department at 253-3399.

Japanese-American Society Culture Fair
March 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the M.C. Perry Elementary School cafeteria — Nihon Buyoo Dancing, Naginata Demonstration, Taiko Drums, Koto and Fue Performance, Kimono Show, Kagura Dance Static displays in the cafeteria and library Activities in the library: Origami, Ikebana, Tea Ceremony, Calligraphy Food in the courtyard: Zenzai (sweet red beans), Tea

M.C. Perry Elementary PTO Bingo and Basket Auction
Come bid on a variety of themed baskets with a silent auction. March 27, 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Bingo cards \$1 each. For more information contact 253-2180.

Jazz, Jesus and Japan (Christian Concert)
March 22, 5 – 7 p.m. at the Station’s Chapel. Presented by MCAS Christian Non-Denominational Chapel Community. Featuring Ken and Bola Taylor, and local guest performers. For more information, contact the Station Chapel.

Registration for Central Texas College
Registration for Central Texas College is going on from March 2 until March 20 and classes begin from March 2 until May 17. Distance learning and traditional classes are available. For more information, contact Central Texas College (Bldg 411, Room 109) at 253-3288 or e-mail iwakuni.jpn.pfec@ctcd.edu

St. Patrick’s Day Meal
Food Service will be serving a special meal in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day March 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at both South and North side mess halls. Cost is \$4.25 for comrats, family members and civilians. Family members of E-4 and below pay \$3.65. Menu: Irish beef stew Fish and chips Corned beef and cabbage Beer batter fish fillets Irish potato casserole

Irish heritage cabbage Simmered green beans Irish spicy corn bread Irish soda bread Irish cream bundt cake Chocolate cookies Cherry pies

“Pista Sa Nayon” Town Fiesta
May 30, at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom, doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner and show at 6 p.m. Please come and join the Fil-Am Community in celebration of our 14th Annual “Pista Sa Nayon” Town Fiesta. We will have cultural Filipino performances and a dance to end the evening. Tickets are \$35 which includes an international buffet menu. For more information, call 253-6084 (work).

CPR course
American Red Cross Course is on March 17 at 5 p.m. (CPR Adult, infant and child. cost is \$40) (First Aid. Cost is \$30) at American Red Cross Office. Open to everyone aboard MCAS Iwakuni. Ten people per class. For more information, contact with American Red Cross at 253-4525.

4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament
Fil-Am Iwakuni will sponsor a 4-man golf scramble tournament on April 18 at 11:30 a.m., shotgun start at noon. 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 (work).

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 13, 2009

7 p.m. Hotel for Dogs (PG)
Premier
10 p.m. My Bloody Valentine (R)
Premier

Saturday, March 14, 2009

1 p.m. Hotel for Dogs (PG)
4 p.m. My Bloody Valentine (R)
7 p.m. The Unborn (PG-13)
10 p.m. Defiance (R)

Sunday, March 15, 2009

1 p.m. Marley & Me (PG) *Last Showing*
4 p.m. Hotel for Dogs (PG)
7 p.m. My Bloody Valentine (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.

Monday, March 16, 2009

7 p.m. Valkyrie (PG-13) *Last Showing*

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

7 p.m. Frost/Nixon (R) *Premier*

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

7 p.m. Defiance (R) *Last Showing*

Thursday, March 19, 2009

7 p.m. My Bloody Valentine (R)

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1998 Delica

Seats 8. Automatic. Diesel. 4WD great for the mountains and skiing! A/C & 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! Contact 253-2156 (home) or 253-6358 (work).

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of mushroom soup, creole soup, sauerbraten, hot and spicy chicken, fried rice, oven glo potatoes, fried zucchini, calico corn, dinner rolls, congo bars, double layer marble cake with butter cream frosting, blueberry crunch
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Cream of potato soup, chicken noodle soup, southern fried chicken, barbeque beef cube, steamed rice, buttered pasta, black-eyed peas, creole squash, cornbread, chocolate chip cookies, spice cake with butter cream frosting, lemon meringue pie
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Cream of broccoli soup, vegetable soup, tempura fish, pepper steak, steamed rice, oven glo potatoes, glazed carrots, brown gravy, dinner rolls, club spinach, peanut butter cookies, double layer devil's food cake with butter cream frosting, cheese cake
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Minestrone soup, cream of chicken soup, creole macaroni, fried shrimp, fettuccini noodles, Alfredo sauce, grilled cheese sandwich, tempura vegetables, peas and carrots, dinner rolls, cocktail sauce, sugar cookies, strawberry shortcake with whipped topping, vanilla cream pie
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

Friday

clam chowder, minestrone soup, braised beef and noodles, baked fish, mashed potatoes, fried cabbage, mix vegetables, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, banana bread, shortbread cookies, Dutch apple pie
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

1999 Mitsubishi Chariot Grandis

Automatic, 4 Door, Seats 7, Great A/C and Heat, Power Windows/Locks, AM/FM Stereo, CD/Cassette player, JCI until August 2010. \$3,500 OBO. Call 253-2031 (home) or 090-8406-8890 (cell).

1994 Mitsubishi Delica

JCI good until Nov 09, excellent condition, diesel, 4X4, seats 7, \$3000. Contact 253-2683 or 080-2469-4859 (cell)

1997 Honda Stepwagon

JCI good until Jan. 31, 2010, 6 disc cd player, seats 7, nice in and out, runs great, four new tires, \$2,000, call 253-2124 or 253-6553.

1992 Toyota Windom

Automatic green 4-door Sedan, power windows/locks, great A/C and heat, JCI expires Feb. 20, 2011. Asking \$1500. If interested, please call 253-2261 (home) or 253-6716 (work).

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.

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

Double Jogging Stroller

Wanted double jogging stroller. Swivel wheels preferred and in good condition. Will pay up to \$100. 253-2899 (home).

Items for Sale

Armoire and matching chest of drawers - \$350
29" TV - \$50
32" Sony - \$200 (almost new), Available to see on base.
Call 0829-55-0258 (home) or 080-3454-0164 (cell)

Items for Sale

32" JVC TV with remote for \$50 - works great, just upgraded!
Rock Band for PS3 includes: drums,

drumsticks, guitar, microphone 100 plus game - brand new only played 3 times, just upgraded. 253-2176 (home) or 253-3754. (work)

Items for Sale

Christina Crib'N changer combo / day bed - includes mattress in good condition. Asking \$100 OBO
32" Sharp TV, no problems - clean and in good condition. Asking \$100 OBO 253-4266 (work) or 253-2274 (home)

Cat Needs a Good Home

Well mannered all needed accessories included. Asking \$50. 253-2274 (home) 253-4266 (work).

Job Announcements

Job with J&E Associates, Inc. for a health and human services professional:

Full time job with 40 hours per week. J&E Associates, Inc. has an opening for a home visitor as part of the New Parent Support Program, a community based parent support and education program for Marine and Navy families with children 0-5 years of age. The home visitor will provide parent education through home, hospital/clinic, office and telephone contact to active duty personnel and their families. Competitive salary and full benefits package available.

If selected, you will be required to provide: driving record, college transcript, copy of professional license, and submit to an FBI criminal background check with fingerprints. To apply: Submit a letter of interest and resume one of the following ways: Deliver: NPSP, Marine and Family Services, Bldg. 411, Room 219, 253-6553 Mail: NPSP, Iwakuni Personal Services Division, PSC 561 Box 1863, FPO AP 96310-0029 DSN Fax: 645-0057 E-mail: resumes@jeassociates.com

Job Opening

Regular part-time position available with the Marine Corps Distance Learning Program. 30 hours a week at competitive salary. Customer Service experience and basic computer skills a must. U.S. citizenship is required. Please email resume to phillip.grant@prosoft.tv or call 090-7377-0847 (cell).

Job Announcement for WIC Overseas Iwakuni:

Opportunities are 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. For immediate consideration, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to Virginia.Johnson.ctr@misawa.af.mil or fax to 226-9585. You may also come to the Iwakuni WIC office in building 411 or call us at 253-4408.

Parents have the opportunity to meet with senior leadership about schools

Members of the Pacific Theater Education will be available to meet with parents and community members to discuss Department of Defense Dependent Schools issues on March 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Matthew C. Perry School Information Center. PTEC is comprised of representatives from each of the services headquarters in Hawaii and

work with parents, staff and community members to develop programs to make our schools even better. Anyone who would like to share their experiences of good ideas are encouraged to attend the meeting. For more information, contact the M. C. Perry Elementary School principal at 253-3327 or the high school principal at 253-5449.

St. Patrick's Day 'Run on the Green'



In honor of St. Patrick's Day, station residents put on green and laced up their running shoes for last year's annual "Run on the Green" at Torii Pines golf course here March 15, 2008. Both children and adults ran in the 2.5-kilometer and 5-kilometer race respectively that took the runners along the perimeter of the course.

MCCS invites community to try to catch the leprechaun

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members and members of the local community are invited to participate in the fourth annual St. Patrick's Day "Run on the Green" held on the Torii Pines golf course here Saturday.

The "Run on the Green" is a 5-kilometer run for adults and a 2.5-kilometer run for children open to the entire community regardless of age or gender.

There is no entry fee or preregistration for the event. To sign up, just show up the day of the race and sign the roster to compete.

Competitors can begin checking in at 10 a.m. outside the Torii Pines pro shop.

Competitors will walk from the check-in point to the starting line near Sakura Theater to begin the race.

Marine Corps Community Services will not limit how many people compete as long as runners show up before the actual race begins.

The youth 2.5K will start at 11 a.m. and the adult 5K will kick

off at 11:30 a.m.

"Last year we had 74 competitors. We are hoping to get at least 100 competitors this year," said Curtis Brown, athletic director for MCCS Iwakuni.

The race is mostly on the golf course with the exception of having to cross the street that the golfers have to cross over.

The children are going to cross there twice, but the adults will do it four times because they are basically running the course twice.

The course will be mapped out by a green stripe, and a leprechaun will be riding in a golf cart leading the competitors to the finish line.

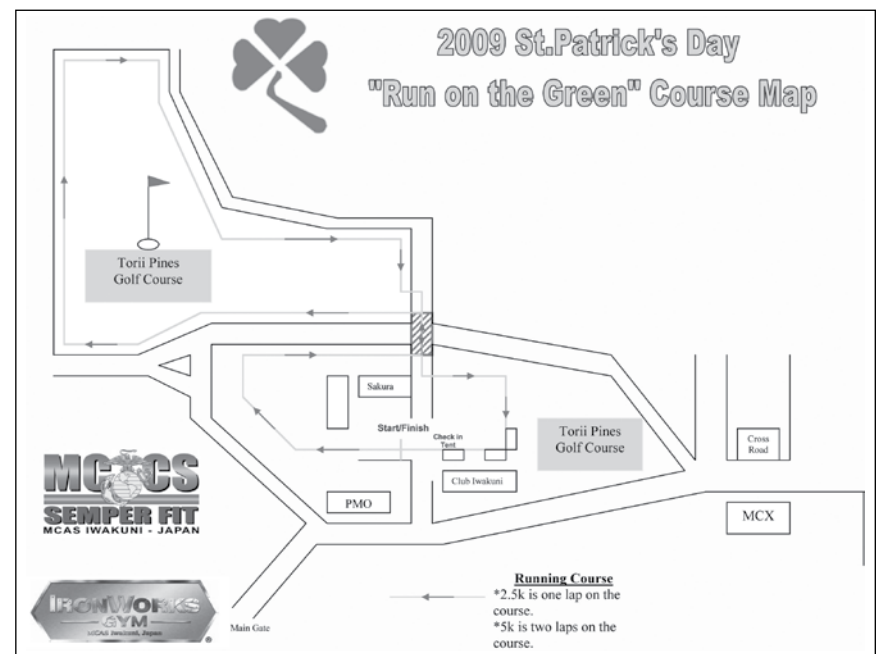
Upon completion of the course, competitors will receive awards based on age group and gender.

Youth age groups are ages 6 and under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-16.

Adult age groups are 17-29, 30-39, 40-49, and 50 and over.

First, second and third places for each group will receive a gold, silver and bronze medal respectively.

MCCS will be handing out free participation T-shirts and St.



The course will be mapped out by a green stripe, and a leprechaun will be riding in a golf cart leading the competitors to the finish line. The "Run on the Green" is a 5-kilometer run for adults and a 2.5-kilometer run for children open to the entire community regardless of age or gender.

Patrick's Day giveaways like pens, key chains and candy for the children.

They will also provide refreshments at the start and

finish line.

"We want to encourage everyone to come. It's a good family event. It's a good community event," said Brown.

Did you know?

DoD will begin to remove SSNs from DoD ID cards

Removal will Occur in Three Phases

Changes to cards will be made upon ID card renewal.

Phase One: Remove Dependent SSNs
To begin by end of calendar year 2008

Phase Two: Remove all printed SSNs*
To begin by end of calendar year 2009

Phase Three: Remove SSNs embedded in barcodes
To begin during calendar year 2012



To ensure the safety of Service members and their families' identity information

In response to an increasing awareness of the growing need to protect the safety of Service members and their families' identity information, DoD will begin to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from DoD ID cards.

**Geneva Conventions ID cards will retain the last four digits of the SSN.*

SSN Removal



For more information regarding the
SSN Reduction Plan, please visit

www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard