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FEATURE

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 13, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

PHOTO STORY



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Lord Susanō impales one of the four fire-breathing heads of the Yamata-no-Orochi, literally eight-headed snake, during a rendition of "Yamata-no-Orochi" during the Japanese Culture Festival at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here Sunday. Read the full story on pages 6 and 7.

Pool opens

COMPILED BY
THE IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The indoor pool at IronWorks Gym reopened Wednesday after being closed several months due to the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act that became effective Dec. 19, 2008.

The act required anti-entrapment and anti-evisceration drain covers or certification of compliance of existing drain covers by a public engineer.

The public law also required all public pools to be closed until fitted with upgraded drains or a public engineer's certification of compliance that no human body could block the drains enough to create suction.

If a public engineer found the station pools' drain covers noncompliant, new drain covers would need to be specially made since the existing drain covers were manufactured in Japan.

"Station Safety, Engineers, (Marine Corps Community Services) and Facilities Maintenance explored both avenues in order to open the pools as quickly as possible with safety being the number one priority," said Stephanie R. Brown, MCCS Aquatics director.

As-built drawings, flow rates, construction materials, measurements and other various data were sent to a company that could retrofit the new drain covers.

This data was also forwarded to a public engineer for review.

If the public engineer determined the pools were not in compliance, the new drain covers could be constructed and retrofitted for MCAS Iwakuni pools.

The public engineer determined that all indoor and outdoor MCAS Iwakuni pools are in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

The indoor pool's hours are 5 a.m. – 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays.

The outdoor pools here are slated to open for the summer season on Memorial Day, May 25.

For more information about MCCS Aquatics, visit the organization's Web site at <http://www.mccsiwakuni.com>.

Japanese Police crack down Monday

COMPILED BY
THE IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Japanese Police is scheduled to conduct its Spring Traffic Safety Campaign starting Monday through April 15.

The semi-annual campaign is a nationwide effort to increase public awareness of traffic safety and focus drivers' attention on eliminating contributing factors to fatal accidents, according to Joe Tenis, deputy provost marshal for U.S. Forces Japan.

"People driving off base will notice a significant increase in police presence at intersections and along the roads," said Tenis

in an e-mail. "Seat belts (including back-seat passengers), child safety seats, bicycle safety and driving under the influence are the key themes of the campaign. In addition to these main themes, the police will also be on the lookout for speeding and reckless driving."

The Japanese government enacted a Traffic Safety Policies Law in 1970 following a record-high 16,765 traffic fatalities.

Since then, annual spring and fall traffic-safety campaigns played a significant role in reducing the number of fatalities to 5,155 in 2008 — the lowest total since 1955 — according to the National Police Agency Web site.

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services conducts a customer satisfaction survey annually to learn what the organization is doing right, what it is doing wrong and how it can improve quality of life here.

"The results for this year's survey have come back very positive," said K.C. Rich, MCCS public affairs specialist. "All the comments we received through the survey, both good and bad, gave us good insight into how we can further improve quality of life here."


The survey was created by MCCS

Iwakuni and modeled after the Customer Satisfaction Index or CSI, which is administered by Headquarters Marine Corps once a year at various Marine Corps installations.

"We created our own survey to further

SEE SATISFACTION ON PAGE 3

MCCS survey:
Residents give
thumbs up



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

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

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Simple Gifts’

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

Just this morning the station chapel hosted the annual celebration of Women’s History Month.

Those who attended were very blessed by the program — I know I was.

My mind is still replaying the beautiful music, the lovely dancing, and the meaningful words from the ceremony.

This type of ceremony could have been a celebration of famous women, heads of state, Nobel laureates, Olympic athletes and astronauts, but it wasn’t.

We might have sat for an hour and listened to stories of power, prestige, wealth, and privilege.

We might have applauded the extraordinary gifts of professional musicians and dancers.

We might have listened to the polished words of politicians and academics, but we didn’t do that.

Instead, we watched, entranced as Anita Owens, one of our chapel staff, beautifully and artistically

interpreted her feelings with sacred dance.

We listened, spellbound as Kimberly Lumpkin, of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, offered a gorgeous, wonderfully tender cello solo.

Instead of a tightly-scripted Hollywood production, we stood to honor Cpl. Toniesha Gaddis and Lance Cpl. Stephany Rector as they were designated Marines of the Quarter.

Instead of standing and listening to the standard canned music, we were blessed by chaplain John Cometa accompanying Ginky Canonizado as she sang a soulful rendition of the national anthem.

During the keynote speech, instead of the carefully crafted words of an orator, we were gripped with stories of regular women who rose up to do extraordinary things for others — all as shared by Col. Susan Murray of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

She told these anecdotes in a comfortable, down-home way that was very warm and encouraging.

Instead of honoring those who were extraordinary, privileged, talented, or pampered, she

selected accounts of women who led very ordinary lives and used their gifts to forward an agenda of helping others.

All of this brings me to a point. Sometimes the best gifts are the simple ones.

We don’t have to be incredibly talented or gifted to bless others.

We can give the everyday, ordinary, simple gifts we have been given to lift others up and to make their lives a little better.

I know for a fact gifts and talents offered in the name of the Lord can be used to bless others.

I also know the gifts offered in the women’s history ceremony were offered in that spirit.

An old Shaker hymn called “Simple Gifts” shares this same thought — that the most beautiful gifts are often the most simple.

I want to encourage you, and myself, to freely share the simple gifts that we have been given.

We can share our encouragement, our love, our talents and our care with those around us today.

If we all do that, Iwakuni will be a better place.

May God bless you as you share your simple gifts.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Marines take oath of safety

Marines recite the motorcycle oath of safety at the station chapel March 10. After taking the oath, Marines received a motorcycle safety pin. Sgt. Maj. David Wimberly administered the oath. Before taking the oath, Marines are required to complete the two-day Basic Riders Course, regardless of skill level, in order to operate a motorcycle aboard the station. The course is held weekly at the station safety office and consists of classroom and practical instruction.

Corps Question

Q ■ Why won’t the Education Office process tuition assistance applications after the class start date?

A ■ MARADMIN 571/05 states that the automated TA Authorization must be approved by the designated TA approving authority prior to the start date of the course. TA will not be authorized after the academic institution’s late registration deadline or full tuition refund date. The member is responsible for funding any TA enrollments prior to the receipt of proper authorization. For more information, call the Education Office at 253-3855.

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

Marine and Family Services Center recognizes Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The nightly news never seems to fall short of tragic tales of abuse and assault. It can be simple to fall into the trap of following these horror stories from afar, making it easy to forget how close to home they can sometimes hit.

The toughest moments for a victim of abuse or assault can oftentimes be life after the incident. Regret, guilt and depression sometimes follow after the initial shock of the event.

If someone has been assaulted or abused, the station has plenty of resources and avenues to help in the healing process. The Victim Advocacy Program, ran through Marine and Family Services Center, provides counseling and support to those who have experienced assault or abuse.

The Victim Advocacy Program is available all year long, but for the month of April the station is offering unique opportunities to help people prevent and recover from experiencing assault and abuse.

During April, the station is observing National Child Abuse Awareness Month in tandem

with Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

“National Child Abuse Awareness Month is a large umbrella that is meant to cover a variety of topics relating to child care,” said Shermona Hart, a Victim Advocate at the counseling service center here.

“Physical abuse and neglect of a child is always a huge concern. Specifically at Iwakuni, the main problem we run into is parents neglecting their children.”

Child negligence ranges in degrees from parents misplacing their children to borderline abuse.

“It can be easy, especially on a base or station, for parents to let their guard down,” said Hart.

“At the Commissary and at the Crossroads I see kids running around all the time without a parent. Leaving your kid in a car or at home only becomes appropriate when they reach a certain age.”

To educate parents on what is appropriate, Marine Corps Bases Japan has designed a set of supervision guidelines (see below). The rules are insightful and sometimes surprising. For example, a child can not be left in the car alone until the age of 10 and cannot be left alone at home until the age of 17.

Hart urges parents and children to attend the many events planned in support of National Child Abuse Awareness Month. Seminars and Training are available in an array of themes from recognizing signs of abuse to common-sense parenting.

In addition to child abuse classes, the Family and Marine Services Center is also sponsoring an array of events to educate people on sexual assault.

Sexual assault typically happens at home, in the barracks and in the workplace, oftentimes by people the victim knows.

“We would like to think sexual assault doesn’t happen here, but it does,” said Hart.

“Our office is here to help people prevent, report and recover from sexual assault.”

Admitting to being sexually assaulted can be tough. Commonly in the military, victims feel apprehensive to seek help in fear of damaging themselves or their attacker’s career.

Victims of sexual assault have two options of reporting an assault: restricted and unrestricted.

Restricted reports allow a victim to confidentially file an assault report with a specified

individual. Restricted reports can be made to a sexual assault response coordinator, uniformed victim advocate, victim advocate, counselors and healthcare providers.

An unrestricted report notifies commands and law enforcement officers to proceed with formal investigations of all alleged, suspected and actual assaults.

“Restricted or unrestricted, you are still coming here,” said LaNita R. Perkins, a social service technician at the counseling service center here.

“We keep the incident as restricted as possible throughout the entire process.”

Since the creation of National Child Abuse Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month commands across the Department of Defense have educated people to actively participate in the prevention and recovery process.

“Assault and abuse happen to men and women both young and old,” said Perkins.

“It used to be taboo to admit you had been assaulted or abused, but now people are aware and the information is out there. By having classes and handing out pamphlets, we are giving people the power of knowledge.”

Age	Leave unsupervised at play-ground, out or inside quarters	Leave alone over night	Leave in car unsupervised	Babysit siblings	Babysit others	Leave in public areas unsupervised	Walk to school	Leave in quarters while on vacation/TDY
0-6 years	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
7-9 years	No, unsupervised in quarters. Yes, at playground or outside quarters for 2 hours with physical access to designated adult checking periodically.	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
10-11 years	6 hours with physical access to designated adult checking periodically	No	Yes, with keys removed up to 15 minutes	No	No	Yes, 6 hours at recreational areas, 3 at retail with adult checking	Yes	No
12-13 years	12 hours with designated adult checking periodically. Not to exceed over night.	No	Yes, with keys removed	Yes	Yes	Yes, 12 hours in recreational area with adult checking	Yes	No
14-15 years	Same as 12-13 years.	No	Yes, with keys removed	Yes	Yes	Yes, 12 hours with adult checking	Yes	No
16-17 years	Yes, with telephone access to a designated adult.	Yes, with telephone access.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Station residents express satisfaction with MCCS in survey

SATISFACTION FROM PAGE 1

serve the community here and to be proactive about our customer satisfaction,” said Rich.

More than 300 people responded to the MCCS customer service satisfaction survey, which was administered online and through written-forms beginning in September.

The majority of respondents were service

members, followed by spouses and civilians.

The results showed 85 percent of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with MCCS overall. Approximately 91 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the food court, making it the highest rated service in terms of overall satisfaction.

The survey also asked people’s opinions on other MCCS facilities here.

Club Iwakuni was rated to have the best facilities, with 96 percent stating they were satisfied or very satisfied with Club Iwakuni.

Although the majority of survey respondents were satisfied with MCCS, the organization plans to continually improve services and facilities available to the local community.

“It is through community involvement that we are able to make changes,” said Rich.

“For instance, the station used to not have a coffee shop, but enough people requested one that

MCCS jumped all the hurdles necessary to bring one to them.”

Based on the results of this most recent MCCS customer satisfaction survey, MCCS Iwakuni plans to take specific actions based on the latest comments and concerns.

“A new casual dining concept offering a new menu is soon to arrive to Club Iwakuni after the completion of current renovations,” said David N. Haigh, MCCS Director.

“Also, a significant renovation of the Monzen Lodge will be done this year to offer a better home away from home for incoming and outgoing station residents.”

Those who were not able to participate in the latest MCCS customer service satisfaction survey can still make a difference by visiting the MCCS Iwakuni Web site at www.mccsiwakuni.com and then clicking on the ICE link to share comments or concerns.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

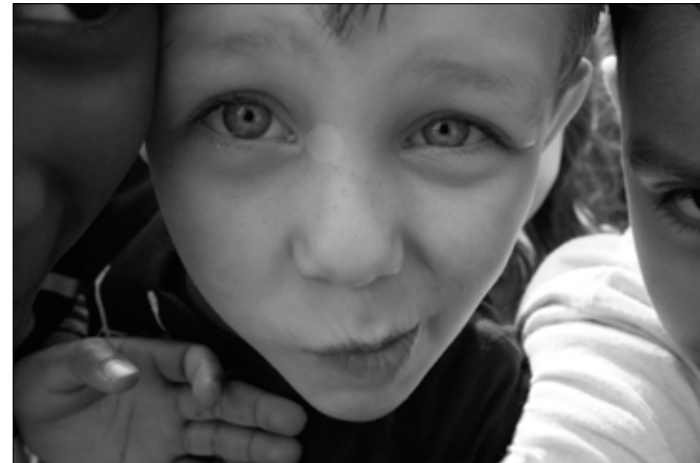
Children play on the playground at the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here March 6. Since 1986, military commands and communities have taken April, Month of the Military Child, as an opportunity to recognize the importance and sacrifices military children make for the mission.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

A young boy rests from running on the playground at the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here March 6. Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni will sponsor the "Month of the Military Child Celebration" scheduled for April 11, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Multipurpose Activity Center Dome.

April: Month of the Military Child



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

A child makes faces on the playground at the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here March 6. The Marine Corps Community Services event April 11 at the Multipurpose Activity Center Dome will host an array of fun opportunities for children, including everything from music and dancing to races and prizes.

MCCS to host celebration of military children April 11

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Growing up is not always easy. Throw a military parent into the mix and suddenly a child has a unique set of obstacles. From frequent moves to parents on deployments, military children must adapt and overcome just like their parents.

April is the Month of the Military Child. Since 1986, military commands and communities have taken the month as an opportunity to recognize the importance and sacrifices military children make for the mission.

Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni will sponsor the "Month of the Military Child Celebration" scheduled for April 11, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Multipurpose Activity Center Dome, which is located near the Northside football field.

The event will host an array of fun opportunities for children, including everything from music and dancing to races and prizes.

"Kids are our most valuable assets," said K.C. Rich, the public affairs specialist for MCCS Iwakuni. "It's important to support our children because they are our future."

During a parents 20-year military career, some children may experience up to nine moves.

Moving can be extremely difficult for children. They have to change schools, leave friends and adapt to

new environments.

Parents can ease the pain by getting their children involved in the moving process. Talking and having discussions about a move can give a child a better idea of what to expect.

"Whenever I would find out that we were moving I would always tell the kids," said Shermona Hart, a victim advocate at the counseling service center here. "Leading up to the move, my sons and I go on the Internet to see what kind of things we can do at the place we are moving to. It always helps us get excited, and it helps them get on board."

Moving can be difficult for children of all ages, but from personal experience Hart thinks it gets easier with time.

Hart said now that her boys are older they have grown into the military lifestyle, and not much surprises them anymore.

The military lifestyle has become routine for Hart's family. What has not become routine, is the exciting places her children get to go.

"They think it's cool that they get to travel around," said Hart. "Not many kids their age have had a chance to travel overseas like this. There are adults who haven't even left the United States before."

Whether a family thinks raising a child in the military is a bad or good thing is a matter of opinion. What is undeniable is the level of recognition military children deserve.



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marine creates new educational social network

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — U.S. Marines, Navy and Air Force personnel visited a local school to test-run an educational social network Web site created by an Iwakuni-based Marine on his spare time while on deployment here in support of exercise Cope Tiger 2009 March 18.

Cpl. Eric McIntyre, a ground supply property noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Marine Aircraft Group 12 and creator of Connecwork.com, organized and lead a visit to Boonwattana secondary school to test the new Web site created to connect students learning English with English speakers from around the world.

Iwakuni-based Marines and sailors of MAG-12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 224, and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 were among the service members teaching the students how to use the new social networking Web site.

McIntyre said he thought why not construct a social network to create a relationship between the armed forces and the students of Boonwattana secondary school to help their studies of the English language.

Connecwork.com features a discussion forum where users can learn from each other's language, religion, and way of life. The Web site also features

educational games and a homework helpline discussion forum open for use to students of all ages.

While the website was created to connect the Thai students of Boonwattana secondary school with English speaking service members, it can also be used by anyone around the world wanting to learn a new language directly from a native speaker.

"People can go online and meet new friends, connect to other countries and learn another language and culture in the process," said McIntyre. "With Connecwork.com you can figuratively visit that country any day. You can make friends and visit them - visiting their profile is like knocking on their door."

American service members spent the morning making new friends and creating profiles with the children of Boonwattana secondary school to stay connected and learn from each other from anywhere around the world.

Richard Bosson, an overseas English teacher at Boonwattana secondary school said, he hopes the American services members who came here as total strangers will realize that they now have friends and family they can stay in touch with through the website and visit whenever they want.

"The students here feel like they have new brothers and sisters," said Bosson. "We would love it if every one of you could connect and make one or two



PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — Lance Cpl. Justin Moore, a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, teaches Thai students how to use Connecwork.com during a visit by American service members to Boonwattana secondary school in Korat, Thailand March 18. Connecwork.com was created by an Iwakuni-based Marine during his deployment to Thailand in support of exercise Cope Tiger 2009.

new friends."

Connecwork.com quickly grew through word-of-mouth and came to include people from six different counties in its trail run at the school.

"We want this to grow really big," said Bosson. "People are going to benefit from this and make new friends worldwide."

The students at the school eagerly participated in the trail run of Connecwork.com ready to learn and make new friends from around the world.

"I think the Marines visiting us today are great," said Patwijittra Somsri, a 13-year-old at

Boonwattana secondary school.

"I like being able to communicate with all types of people so I can learn from them."

The school has plans to start a Connecwork.com club in order to encourage more students to create profiles and keep connected with different cultures. Somsri said it's important to have friends all over the world so you can learn new and different things.

McIntyre has plans to present the Web site to local schools in Iwakuni, Japan to further promote the growth of his new social networking Web site.

Japanese Culture Festival 2009

Fire breathing serpents, samurai invade school

SGT. ROBERT DURHAM
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Schoolchildren, base personnel, and local nationals were witness to dozens of events here, ranging from traditional Japanese dancing to an epic battle against a giant serpent to save a princess.

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School, in conjunction with the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Japanese American Society, hosted the 2009 annual Japanese Culture Festival here Sunday.

The event strengthens the bonds of friendship and understanding between U. S. citizens and Japanese nationals, and helps expose personnel here to various types of Japanese culture.

Events like this help get the kids involved in the culture of where they are living, said coach Richard Peterson, the physical education and health teacher at the school.

Almost right after the event started, Robert Polanco was enjoying some green tea in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, hosted by a local tea ceremony expert.

"This way, a family can come in and see the many aspects of Japan. It's a good way to see the culture here," he said.

The event took more than 100 Japanese volunteers to make it possible.

One volunteer, Hisami Tarumoto, works for the local

newspaper in Iwakuni. She, like many other Japanese volunteers, has an interest in American culture and providing an equal exchange of knowledge.

"I'm learning English on Saturdays. I had enough time this weekend to come here," she said.

Tarumoto volunteered to teach children and adults attending the event the art of Japanese calligraphy.

One of her pupils was Chloe Fondren, a student at M.C. Perry.

As she carefully navigated her paper with a brush dipped in ink, her mother, Amanda Foundren, looked on.

"This is really cool," she said. "It's good for my daughter. She



A young child is taught Ikebana, or flower arrangement, during the Japanese Culture Festival held at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here Sunday. Although participants were able to arrange their bouquets blank-canvas style, traditionally, the composition of the flower arrangement indicates the meaning of the bouquet. To learn more about Ikebana, sign up at Services Plus for one of the weekly classes held at the Library Mondays at 1 p.m. or Thursdays at 6 p.m.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

the library.

Kiyosato Harada, of the Iwakuni Matchlock Gun Troops, not only exhibited his collection of arquebuses, he dressed children in authentic reproduction samurai armor.

The young bushido warriors were able to walk around the school fully dressed for battle.

Hiroshi Imasake, a volunteer with the Japanese American Society for many years, caused quite a few heads to turn with his rice-popping machine.

Rice was placed inside a steam-pressurized, rotating container. When the pressure inside reached a certain point, Imasake tapped the latch with a metal tool.

The resulting explosive blasts popped rice into a mesh covering and all over its operator.

Many who heard the blasts thought something had gone terribly wrong, but the huge smile on Imasaki's rice covered face, as well as the delicious smell, curbed the crowd's concern as they poured out of the library to see what happened.

For many who attended the festival, the grand finale performance of "Yamata-no-Orochi," was the pinnacle of the event.

"Yamata-No-Orochi" is a Japanese legend about a hero named Lord Susano killing a giant eight-headed serpent terrorizing a local town.

The play featured live music, special effects and actors dressed as four giant serpents to represent the eight-headed serpent Yamata-no-Orochi.

Children scooted farther and



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

The Yamata-no-Orochi breathes fire to intimidate the Japanese hero Lord Susanō during a rendition of "Yamata-no-Orochi" during the Japanese Culture Festival at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here Sunday. According to the legend, Yamata-no-Orochi was a giant serpent with eight heads, eight tails, pine and cypress trees growing from its back, and covering eight hills and valleys with its bulk. A local town offered a young girl as sacrifice each year to appease the creature until Lord Susanō slay the beast by serving it sake and cutting off the serpent's heads while it lay in a stupor.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A frightened child attempts to quickly back pedal as a giant snake makes a sudden move toward her during a kagura of "Yamata-no-Orochi," literally the eight-headed snake, during the Japanese Culture Festival held at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here Sunday. Kagura performances reenact well-known Japanese legends with one of the most famous and performed stories being the killing of the Yamata-no-Orochi.

gets to overcome her fears of being in a foreign country — a foreign culture. She's not used to it yet," said Foundren.

As performers from all over the area were displaying their talents in dance, calligraphy, martial arts, and music in the cafeteria, others were teaching from various static displays in

farther from the serpents as they slithered off the stage toward the crowd.

The heads of the great beasts snapped at the audience as they twisted and slithered on the ground, occasionally rising in a threatening posture.

Many children could be seen running in total panic from the monster, only to return instantly so they could experience the thrill of the performance.

At the end of the play, the audience cheered the hero on as he dispatched the many heads of the serpent one by one, placing the masks of each deceased beast at the feet of the young audience members in the front row, marking the end of another Japanese American Society event.

The Japanese American Society is open to anyone who is interested in joining.

For more information about organization, call 253-4744 on base or 0827-79-4744 off base.



SGT. ROBERT DURHAM

A Matthew C. Perry Elementary School student is dressed as a samurai during the Japanese Cultural Festival at the school here Sunday. Children were encouraged to don the traditional samurai armor and parade around the courtyard during the festivities.

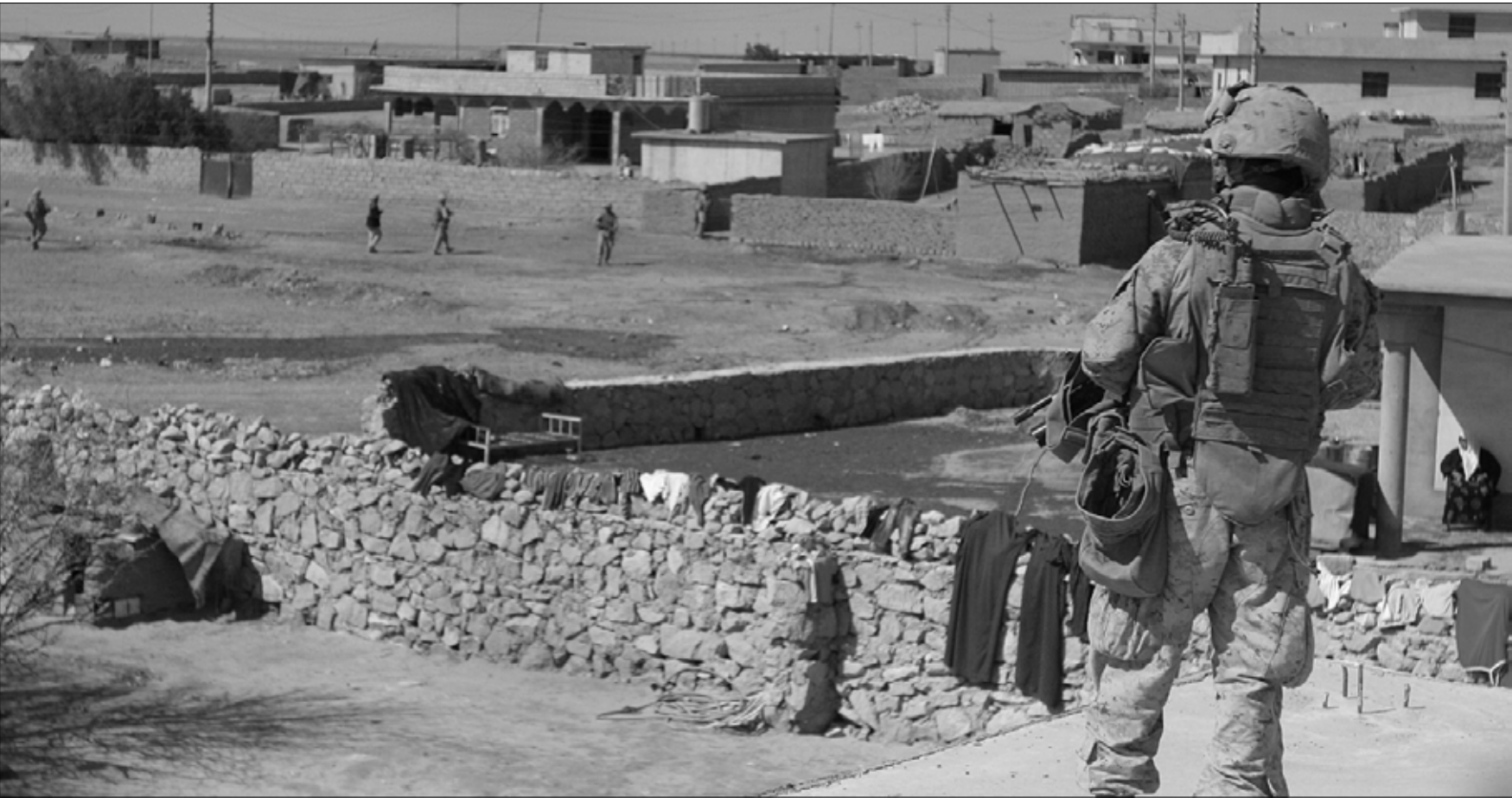


LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A young boy is guided in haiga, haiku painting, during the Japanese Culture Festival held at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here Sunday. Haiga was developed in the 17th century and was used to decorate scrolls, albums, screens and fans.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



NINEWA PROVINCE, Iraq — Cpl. Christopher Martinez, a scout with 3rd Platoon, Company D, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, overlooks the streets as his squad patrols through the village in northern Iraq. “When you go into these smaller villages, most of what we know comes from our scouts on the ground,” said 1st Lt. John W. Heald, commander of 3rd Platoon. “These cities are tight and difficult to navigate through at times, so the implicit communication that was fostered over the months in the field outside the wire has helped with that. It has been really impressive to watch these guys work.”

LAR remains expeditionary throughout deployment

SGT. DEAN DAVIS
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 8

NINEWA PROVINCE, Iraq — Since the Marine Corps is known for its expeditionary prowess, maybe one of the best examples of this trait can be found in Iraq’s Ninewa province.

Patrolling the terrain of northern Iraq, the Marines of 3rd Platoon, Company D, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, have spent the bulk of their deployment staying true to this expeditionary mindset by remaining ‘outside the wire’ to interdict smuggling.

“The work these Marines do is tough, and they do a phenomenal job every time,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua J. Lepper, platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon.

“The highlight of this deployment has been seeing the Marines out in the field for 75 days at a time with no complaints and happy to do the job they are assigned. I couldn’t ask for a better platoon of Marines.”

Occasionally the platoon returns to Sahl Sinjar Airfield, a remote airstrip here, but ask 1st Lt. John W. Heald, commander of 3rd Platoon, and he will tell you, that like the rest of the Marines in his platoon, he would rather be out operating in the desert and villages.

“It has been rough at times, but this platoon is very tight, which



NINEWA PROVINCE, Iraq - 1st Lt. John W. Heald, commander of 3rd Platoon, Company D, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8 reports information to his company during a patrol through a village in northern Iraq. During the mission, Marines left the open desert and entered a town to search for an individual said to be hiding in the city.

improves any situation,” said Heald.

“Being out for this long and living out of the vehicles like this forced us to adapt.”

Adapting to living conditions has given way to a unique cohesion amongst the platoons as well, which are essential to missions like the one the platoon carried out recently, Heald said.

“When you go into these smaller villages, most of what we know

efits of this deployment, but for the older ones, they are happy to see how much Iraq has changed since their previous deployments because it means everything we did worked.”

Sgt. Saul Pando, chief scout for 3rd Platoon, can attest to that concept as he is now wrapping up his sixth deployment to Iraq.

“Over the last few years in Iraq things have definitely changed, but Marines don’t change their standards,” said Pando. “Sometimes we need to be providing humanitarian aid and sometimes we need to search like we did today. That’s the nature of the Marine Corps though. These Marines get that, and they know when to sink their teeth in.”

If there is ever a group of Marines ready to sink their teeth in or pull back and help; it may well be 3rd Platoon, who will continue to do what Marines do best, explained Lepper.

“I think that we are at a stage in the war where we can let the Iraqi Security Forces take over,” said Lepper.

“I have seen them operate and they are working well without much help from [Coalition Forces]. The Marine Corps is an expeditionary organization and during this deployment in [Ninewa province] we have proven that day after day. These men will do what Marines do, regardless of conditions, and do a fine job.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Month of the Military Child: Play Mornings
An interactive play group for 0- to 5-year-old children is scheduled for 10 – 11:30 a.m. April 7, 14, 21 and 28 in the community room of Building 656. Those participating should bring a copy of immunization records. All residents and personnel are encouraged to wear pink on these days. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program at 253-6553.

Babysitter Boot Camp
Three day training in babysitting is Tuesday through Thursday. Morning Session Babysitters training is 8 a.m. – noon. Volunteer Summer Orientation is 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Afternoon Babysitters Training is 5 to 9 p.m. Meals are provided for those who participate in both Babysitters boot camp and the Volunteer Orientation. To sign up or for more information, call 253-4525.

Common Sense Parenting Information Table
Marine and Family Counseling Services staff will have informational handouts, books and videos available on display regarding parenting and child abuse prevention in the kiosk area of the Crossroads Mall 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. April 14. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program 253-4526.

Baby and Me Coffee and Tea Fun Time
Learn about baby sign language, games, songs and other helpful topics with your baby while meeting other parents and your favorite breakfast beverage 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. April 9, 16, 23, and 30. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program at 253-6553.

Month of the Military Child Celebration
Marine Corps Community Services is scheduled to host a celebration in honor of Month Military Child at the MAC Dome here 1 – 5 p.m. April 11. For more information, call 253-5549.

Child Abuse and Neglect Campaign
The Victim Advocacy Program will be distributing flyers on “Marine Corps Bases Japan Child Supervision Guidelines” at the Marine Corps

Exchange 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

Change in Saturday Post Office Hours
Beginning April 4, the post office Saturday hours for the finance and parcel pick-up windows will change. The new hours will be 8 a.m. to noon. During the week, the finance window is open 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri and 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Wed. The parcel window is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon – Fri.

Change in Aviation Medicine at BHC
Aviation Medicine and audiograms are no longer operating on a walk-in basis. Aviation Medicine physicals will be conducted in the mornings and audiograms will be conducted in the afternoons. For an appointment, contact the appointment desk at 253-3445.

Childcare Co-op at IronWorks
A new program is looking for mother’s who want to work out at the IronWorks Gym 8 - 9 a.m. Mondays through Fridays but need childcare. The program will pool mothers together to take turns throughout the week. For more information, call 080-3718-6389.

Boosting Your Baby’s Brain
Bring your 1- to 12-month-old baby to learn various brain-boosting activities through

games, songs and more April 13 and 10 – 11 a.m. April 20. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program 253-6553.

Blue Ribbon Campaign
April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue ribbons will be passed out all month to wear in support. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

Youth and Teen Universal Studios Trip
Marine Corps Community Services Youth and Teen Programs is scheduled to take the first 38 10- to 18-year-olds who register by today to Universal Studios in Osaka Monday. For more information, contact 253-5549.

Library Pajama Party
A night of stories, games and fun with cookies and milk for a bedtime snack is scheduled for 6 – 7 p.m. April 21. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

“Pista Sa Nayon” Town Fiesta
The 14th Annual “Pista Sa Nayon” town fiesta is being held at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom at 5 p.m. May 30. Tickets are \$35 and include an international buffet menu. For more information, call 253-6084.

3rd Annual Station-wide Easter Egg Hunt
There will be an Easter

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SAKURA THEATER

Friday, April 3, 2009

7 p.m. The Pink Panther 2 (PG)

Premier

10 p.m. Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13)

Premier

Saturday, April 4, 2009

1 p.m. Monsters Vs. Aliens (PG)

Premier

4 p.m. The Pink Panther 2 (PG)

7 p.m. Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13)

10 p.m. Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans (R)

Sunday, April 5, 2009

1 p.m. The Pink Panther 2 (PG)

4 p.m. Monsters Vs. Aliens (PG)

7 p.m. Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13)

Monday, April 6, 2009

7 p.m. Monsters Vs. Aliens (PG)

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

7 p.m. My Bloody Valentine (R)

Last Showing

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

7 p.m. New in Town (PG-13)

Premier

Thursday, April 9, 2009

7 p.m. Taken (PG-13)

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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egg hunt 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. April 11 beginning at the north side football field. Peter Cotton-tail and a balloon artist will be on hand. For more information, contact 253-6454.

Dating and Teen Relationships
The Youth and Teen Center's Smart Girls and Torch Club, Keystone members will receive Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Training 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. April 13. The focus of this program is to teach teenagers how to recognize the signs of an abusive relationship. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Cream of broccoli soup, French onion soup, baked chicken and rice, yakiniku (steak and vegetables), steamed rice, lyonnaise green beans, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cream pie with whipped topping, double layer banana cake with butter cream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday
Minestrone soup, tomato soup, roast fresh ham, shrimp scampi, potatoes au gratin, steamed rice, glazed carrots, broccoli combo, cheese biscuits, potato salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake with buttercream frosting, coconut cream pies.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday
Chicken and rice soup, New England clam chowder, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, tempura fried fish, macaroni and cheese, oven glo potatoes, broccoli polonaise, peas and mushrooms, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spring salad, standard salad bar, chocolate drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake with lemon butter cream frosting, blueberry pie.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday
Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, apple glazed corn beef, teriyaki chicken, rissole potatoes, noodles jefferson, succotash, fried cabbage, hot mustard sauce, chicken gravy, cornbread, potato salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, pineapple upside down cake, chocolate cream pie with whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

Friday
Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, shrimp creole, beef cordon bleu, herbed broccoli, lemon baked fish, parsley butter potatoes, steamed rice, carrots, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double layer German chocolate cake with coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie with whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

Money Management for Pre-Teens
An information course to teach money management techniques and dispel mistaken impressions about money for 10- to 12-year-old children is scheduled for 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. April 21. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

Girl Scouts Summer Camp 2009
The Girl Scouts Summer Camp 2009 is being held June 21–27 in Tama Hills, Japan. Dead-line to sign up is May 15. Visit www.westpacifcgirlscouts.com or call 098-970-2323 for more information.

Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Seminar
Learn symptoms and indicators of possible child abuse/neglect, appropriate reporting and community response noon – 1 p.m. April 15 in Building 411 Room 217. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

Helping Families during Deployment
Sesame Street has created an educational program that will play through April on channel 18 to help military families with feelings, challenges and concerns experienced during various phases of deployment, pre-deployment and homecoming. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

Japanese Language Classes
Yamaguchi International Exchange Association is sponsoring Japanese language courses for foreigners 7 – 9 p.m. Tuesdays beginning April 14 to July 7 in the Iwakuni Civic Hall training room. There are 40 seats available. To take the class, sign up at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551 for more information. Classes range from beginner to advanced beginner level three, and the fee is 500 yen per term.

Officers' Spouses Club Scholarship
Applications, available through your family readiness officer in the School Guidance Office of the Education Center, are now being accepted for the OSC Scholarship due April 15. For more information, call 253-2581.

NMCRS Volunteers Needed
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is looking for volunteers. Call the NMCRS office at 253-5311. The NMCRS office is located in the chapel, Building 1100, Room 148. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Budget for Baby Class
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is holding a monthly Budget for Baby class in Building 1100, Room 148. To sign up or for more information call the NMCRS office at 253-5311.

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classified link on the station Web site and click on the advertisement request form link. Submit the form via the Web site, or send the e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Alternatively, you can submit in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216.

- The deadline for submissions is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.*
- Requests are 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.*

Commissary's Annual Easter Egg Hunt
The annual Easter egg hunt is scheduled for noon Saturday for children 3 through 5 and 2 p.m. for children 6 through 9, on the front lawn at the commissary.

87th Annual Ordnance Golf Tournament
The 87th Annual Ordnance Golf Tournament will start at noon April 10 at the Torii Pines Golf Course. Free food, drinks and gifts will be available with prizes for 1st through 3rd place. For more information call 253-6140.

4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament
The Fil-Am Iwakuni 4-Man scramble golf tournament will start at noon April 18. Free food and drinks along with trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. 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-members, \$19 for members. Green fee included. Open to all personnel. For more information, call 253-6084.

Automobiles

1996 Toyota Mark II
Automatic, runs great, power windows and locks, AM/FM stereo with CD changer, GPS/TV, regular maintenance performed, JCI until Nov. Asking \$1,000 OBO. For more information, call 253-4627 (work), 253-2016 (home) or 080-3524-3882 (cell).

1999 Honda Odyssey
Five-door van, front/rear climate control, 7-passenger seating, third row stow, 79,000 kilometers, JCI March 2010, heavy duty jack set, extra tail lamps, spare tire and shocks to lower car. \$3,250 with road tax and recycle fee paid or \$3,000 without. Ready for sale around April 15. For more information, call 253-6902 (work) or 253-2383 (home).

1996 Mazda Bongo Friendee
JCI until March 2011, automatic, turbo-diesel, new tires, CD/MP3 player, A/C. Power steering, breaks, windows, window shades, locks and sunroof. Seat 8 or re-arranged to make a bed. Buy before April 11 and receive a discount for road tax and title transfer. \$3,000. For more information, call 090-9061-7783.

Toyota Supra
JCI until Sep. 2010, automatic, A/C, heat, CD/cassette player and keyless locking. \$5500 OBO. For more information, call 253-5509 (work) or 080-3750-6690 (cell).

Miscellaneous

Items for Sale
West German Army cold weather parkas, military surplus, size medium — \$30 each. M2R REV-X3 off-road motorcycle helmet, new in box, size medium — \$120. Sony CDP445 5-disc CD player, like new with original box — \$50. For more information, call 080-3274-8282 (cell) or 253-5487 (work).

2009 Spring Intramural Basketball



PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

A player (right) of the Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 Vikings runs the ball up the court while trying to keep the lead in the second half of the game. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Hand Selected ended up winning the game 33-30. The 2009 Intramural Basketball season continues until April 22.

Hand Selected edges Vikings 33-30, takes home another win

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Team Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron “Hand Selected” defeated Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 “Vikings” 33-30 during a Spring Intramural Basketball season game at the IronWorks Gym here March 30.

Hand Selected secured its win by tightening up its defense and playing a more aggressive second half.

At the end of the first half, Hand Selected trailed the Vikings 12-14. “They could have done a lot better,” said Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, H&HS sergeant major.

“They have a lot of talent. They just need to work better together as a team, work on fundamentals and stick to the basics,” said Calvin.

In the second half, Hand Selected players picked up their game by improving communication and playing more aggressively, causing them to get six fouls compared to having none in the first half.

With only one minute and nine seconds on the clock, Hand Selected was still behind by one with a score of 29-30.

Bryan Johnson, a player for Hand

Selected, made the last two shots of the game, putting his team ahead by three points.

During the final seconds of the game, the Vikings attempted to sink a 3-pointer but were unable to put the ball through the hoop.

“Defense wins games,” said Johnson in reference to the close game.

Both teams have plenty of time to improve.

This was Hand Selected’s third game with its second win and the Vikings’ first game of the season.

Gregory Joseph, the coach of Hand Selected, is confident in his team after the Vikings defeat.

“There are some fundamentals we need to work on, but for the most part we’re good,” said Joseph. “Overall, we won by playing sound championship basketball.”

To catch a basketball game, stop by the IronWorks Gym Mondays through Wednesdays until April 22. Games start at 6, 7 and 8 p.m.

Those interested in participating in intramural sports can visit the Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni Web site at <http://www.mccsiwakuni.com> or call the Varsity and Intramural Sports office at 253-3067.



A player (right) of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Hand Selected reaches high to put in a lay-up during the last few minutes of the March 30 game against the Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 Vikings at the IronWorks Gym. Hand Selected beat the Vikings 33-30 after they had been neck and neck the entire game.

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Blue Ribbon Campaign Child Abuse Prevention Month

Show your active support for the prevention of child abuse by receiving the Blue Ribbon, the symbol for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ribbons will be passed out around the community all month.

 **253-4526**

