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FEATURE

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 15, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Marathon to be held Sunday

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services is scheduled to host the 43rd annual Japanese and American Goodwill Kintai Marathon here Sunday.

The event will feature a marathon, half-marathon and five-kilometer walk.

"The full marathon adds up to about four base runs," said Jeramie Johnson, MCCS fitness coordinator. "All the events will start and finish outside the IronWorks Gym."

Check-in will take place near the front entrance of the gym 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

The half marathon kicks off at 10 a.m., followed by the full marathon at 10:10 a.m. and the five-kilometer walk at 10:20 a.m.

The fee to participate in the full and half marathon is \$20. The entry fee includes a T-shirt, meal and certificate.

The fee to participate in the five-kilometer walk is \$10 and includes only the T-shirt.

Water stations will be positioned every 2.5-kilometers of the marathon to provide participants with water, Gatorade, fresh fruits and cookies.

Club Iwakuni will provide catering for the event, consisting of warm pasta with meat

SEE MARATHON ON PAGE 3

## 7th annual MoMC celebration hits big

SGT. ROBERT DURHAM  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF



SGT. ROBERT DURHAM

A young girl tightly holds an inflatable ball given to her by staff at the Marine Corps Community Services' Youth and Teen Center's 7th annual Month of the Military Child Festival at the Multi-Purpose Activities Center Dome here April 11. The more than 450 children present were able to joyfully experience an Easter egg hunt prior to the myriad of events during the festival such as face painting, children's games, toy giveaways, and a sack race.

Marine Corps Community Services' Youth and Teens department held its 7th annual Month of the Military Child festival here April 13.

The event kicked off with an Easter egg hunt with more than 5,000 eggs.

Almost 1,000 people, including nearly 500 children from on and off station, attended both events.

"Every day is kid's day," said Eugene Clark, MCCS Youth Activities Supervisor here. "But here we give the best and biggest in the Far East, the DOD, in the Marine Corps. We wanted to continue that tradition," said Clark.

There were more than enough activities to keep everyone busy at the event.

Three large inflatable play areas allowed younger children to bounce off the walls, including a giant inflatable dragon, a triceratops shaped bouncing pen, and a blow-up carousel.

Many activity booths allowed children to play games, get their faces painted, and learn about organizations they could join such as the local Boy Scout troop.

MCCS staff ran hot dog and hamburger grills providing lunch to hungry guests.

There were also raffles, where MCCS gave away Easter baskets.

The festival was the grand finale of a very eventful spring break week in which MCCS held golf camp, bowling camp and babysitting classes.

For more information about upcoming events for the Month of the Military child and other local activities, go to the MCCS Web site at [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com), or call 253-5284.

## Combating growing identity theft threat: Safeguarding personal, private information in a digital world

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Cases of Marines, sailors and dependents falling victim to identity theft locally and via the Internet is on the rise this year.

The Criminal Investigation Department with the Provost Marshal's Office here wants to inform station residents how to combat the growing issue of identity theft.

"The crime that happens the most aboard (Marine Corps Air Station) Iwakuni is identity theft," said Master Sgt. Christopher Wikel, the chief investigator with CID. "You just can't be

too careful with your personal information and your credit cards. You have to protect them as if it were your military ID card — if you lose it, something has been compromised."

The different ways station residents can fall victim to identity theft is through stolen mail, checkbooks, credit cards and via the Internet.

"We have seen a lot of people being victims of identity theft over the Internet," said Michael Valadez, an agent with CID. "People get bated into providing their information to these sites or e-mails they receive requesting their information to be updated."

Key-logger programs can record everything

a person types and can be unsuspectingly embedded on computers as another tool for unsuspecting victims via the Internet.

"There are certain sites out there that contain viruses that you might go into and unknowingly get that virus onto your own computer," said Valadez.

Station residents can also keep up-to-date antivirus, spyware and malware software on their computer to prevent being a victim of identity theft (see page 10 for more details).

Wikel said people don't realize identity theft

SEE THEFT ON PAGE 3





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# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## Like a cup of tea

LT. CMDR. ALLEN R. KUSS  
STATION COMMAND  
CHAPLAIN

An old Japanese story, from "Stories for the Journey" by William R. White, tells about being open to God and the things of God.

A soldier approached the Teacher.

"I have mastered all of the martial arts," he said calmly.

"I have risen to the highest ranks possible for a man of my training. I now wish to learn about God. Can you help me?"

The Teacher smiled and invited the man to sit at the table.

"Let us have a cup of tea," he said, "before we talk further."

After the soldier sat, the Teacher began to pour tea into the man's cup.

He filled the cup and kept on pouring until the tea was running over the table onto the floor.

The soldier watched dumbfounded until he could no longer be silent. "Stop! It is full! The cup will not hold more tea!"

Placing the teapot on the table, the Teacher addressed the soldier, "You are so full of yourself that there is no room for God. It is not possible for you to learn until you empty yourself."

Regardless whether we are an experienced warrior or a young student, making room for God is important in spiritual development.

When we acknowledge that we are not God, drop our arrogant pride, and admit our dependence on the goodness of God, then we can begin to grow spiritually and become the people we were created to be.

It may seem complicated but making room for God begins with

prayer.

Private prayer can take various forms.

First prepare by choosing what you will do.

Will you sit in silence, speak spontaneously to God, read certain sacred scriptures, use a book of prayers, or use prayer beads or other things helpful to your prayer time?

This preparation is like the warm-up before we begin our exercise workout.

Prayer is done by collecting our thoughts, taking a daily time-out to spend time before the transcendent in a quiet setting with an open heart and allowing God to be God.

Spiritual health and growth are an essential component to our mission readiness, whether this means combat or any other responsibility we are given.

If you are interested in learning more about prayer and spiritual growth, your chaplains stand ready to assist you.

## Powerphone class learns emergency response skills



The Powerphone Course graduating class, comprised of personnel from the Provost Marshal's Office, the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting and the Iwakuni Fire Department, pose after their graduation ceremony in the Building One auditorium here April 10. The course gave students practical application exercises to test their readiness in real life emergency situations.

## Corps Question

**Q ■ What is the Marine Corps Policy for wearing sunglasses while in uniform?**

**A ■ According to Marine Corps Order 1020.34G, sunglasses may be worn on leave, liberty and in garrison but not in formation unless prescribed by the commander or certified medical authority. Sunglasses, when worn, will be conservative in appearance without ornamentation. Sunglass lenses will be of standard green, black or brown shade, or may be the type commonly referred to as photosensitive. Manufacturer logos should be small and discreet.**

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

# Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Helping, caring for victims

SUBMITTED BY SHERMONA HART  
MARINE AND FAMILY SERVICES

The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence (focusing on sexual assault and rape) and to educate the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni community on how to prevent sexual violence.

Sexual assault takes many forms: it is any unwanted sexual contact, including rape, attempted rape, and child sexual abuse.

It can affect people of any gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability.

Sexual assault is a criminal act and will not be tolerated.

The Marine Corps' goal is to eliminate sexual assault within the Corps and to assist those Marines and sailors assigned to Marine Corps units affected by sexual assault.

To facilitate that goal, commanders shall ensure all leaders and supervisors within their command are familiar with Marine Corps Order 1752.5A and the guidance published in its enclosure.

As a Marine, if you know or suspect someone has been sexually assaulted, you must report the crime.

The only personnel exempt from this policy

are uniformed victim advocates, sexual assault response coordinators, chaplains or religious petty officers, medical personnel, and Marine and Family Counseling Services personnel, which include civilian victim advocates and counselors.

If you know someone has been a victim of sexual assault:

- Get assistance but never leave them alone.
- Support them and show respect but don't be overly protective.

- Demonstrate empathy by concentrating on helping your friend, fellow Marine or colleague.

- Listen to them and take the allegations seriously without asking for the details.

- Do not make judgments about the victim of the alleged offender.

Encourage the victim to report the crime; however, you should report the sexual assault to the proper authorities.

Protect the victim's confidentiality by not discussing the assault with anyone except the authorities.

Repeat this message to the victim: "You are not to blame."

All active duty personnel are encouraged to make complete, unrestricted reports of sexual assault in order to receive the information and

referral services that are available.

However, victims of sexual assault have two methods of reporting the assault, unrestricted and restricted reporting.

1. Unrestricted reporting includes all suspected, alleged, or actual sexual assaults made known to command or law enforcement for formal investigation.

2. Restricted reporting affords military victims of sexual assault the option to make a confidential report to specified individuals (sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate, uniformed victim advocate, counselors, and healthcare providers).

If you are a victim of rape or sexual assault, or know someone who may be, you can get information and assistance from the Victim Advocacy Program located in the Marine and Family Services Center in Building 411, Room 219, or by calling 253-4526.

To ensure support for the victim, a victim advocate is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure the victim's rights are protected, provide information, and offer emotional support.

You can also call PMO at 253-3033 and they will connect you to a victim advocate.

## Child Abuse Prevention Month: Spotting children in distress

SUBMITTED BY SHERMONA HART  
MARINE AND FAMILY  
SERVICES

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni recognizes the importance of shared, community responsibility in working to prevent the potentially devastating impact of child abuse and neglect.

Reporting child abuse is an important step to stopping it.

Many people are afraid of reporting child abuse.

They think, "I don't want the person I reported to know," or, "I'm afraid it will come back to haunt me," or, "it's not my business."

Reporting abuse can make a difference.

It can help protect children from further harm.

In some cases, it can save lives!

Without aware adults some children might never receive help.

Be an advocate for children by knowing the signs of abuse and reporting child abuse.

Remember, you are reporting suspicion of child abuse.

Even if you aren't sure, it's better to let authorities check it out.

You might save a child's life!

Child abuse takes many forms. Physical abuse can include purposely hurting a child by hitting, shaking or burning.

Sexual abuse can include any sexual contact with a child, using a child for sexual films or prostitution, or exposing a child to adult sexual activity directly, or through pictures or film.

Emotional abuse can include repeated threats or insults to scare or embarrass a child, or to crush a child's self-esteem. This may also be called verbal abuse.

Neglect can include failing to provide for a child's emotional needs (love, attention, etc.) or physical needs (food, clothing, medical care or supervision).

There is no typical child abuser. Often, children are abused by a parent, another relative or a family friend.

Someone who abuses a child may:

- Leave the child home alone often.

- Try to hide or give unlikely explanations for a child's injuries.

- Punish harshly in public.

- Overreact to small misbehavior.

- Blame a child's older sibling.

- Show little or no concern for the child.

- Isolate the child from others.
- Be aggressive or defensive when asked about the child.
- Have an alcohol or drug problem.

A person who is sexually abusing a child may also give the child gifts, seem overly friendly toward the child or try to spend large amounts of time alone with the child. You may notice more than one sign of abuse.

Child abuse and neglect is viewed as a community issue and is treated primarily through the coordinated efforts of the Provost Marshal's Office, the Family Advocacy Program, and the command.

With the support of these agencies, the family's needs are assessed, assistance and counseling are provided, and the offender is held accountable.

To ensure support for the victim a victim advocate is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure the victim's rights are protected, provide information, and offer emotional support.

If you find yourself in an abusive home, or know someone who is, please call the Family Advocacy Program at 253-4526 or PMO at 253-3303; names of reporting parties are confidential. Help is available.

## MCCS to host annual station marathon

**MARATHON** FROM PAGE 1

sauce, tossed salad and garlic bread.

Meals will be served near the starting point at 11:30 a.m. until the end of the race.

"Only Status of Forces Agreement personnel can pay and register for the marathon on Sunday," said Tadamasu Uemura, the event's coordinator. "Registration has already closed to Japanese nationals."

Approximately 95 percent of the 1,000 participants registered are Japanese.

Approximately 1,500 Japanese nationals will come through the station's main gate Sunday for the annual event.

"The Yamaguchi Prefecture as a whole only offers three marathons a year," said Johnson. "The fact that one of those marathons takes place here says a lot about the station's and MCCS's efforts of playing an active role in the community."

For more marathon information, contact the MCCS Semester Fit Division at 253-5225.

## Making identity theft harder

**THEFT** FROM PAGE 1

over the Internet is a very hard crime to investigate.

Cases of locals stealing identities has also been a concern.

Marines should be able to trust each other, but when it comes to your identity it becomes one of those things you keep safe, Valadez said.

Station residents have fallen prey to identity theft here by carelessly leaving wallets and information easily accessible when working

out, swimming or not securing it properly within their room.

People put their time, money, name and reputation at risk when they don't safeguard their information, Wikel said.

The first step to take as an identity theft victim is to contact their bank and put a hold on their accounts, then contact PMO and make a report they can present to their credit card companies to support their claim.

Wikel said even when on temporary additional duty and leave, people should continue to be mindful of identity theft.

Station residents can check their bank accounts and credit reports regularly through Experian.com, Equifax.com or Transunion.

com to combat identity theft and keep themselves informed of any accounts opened in their name.

"As Marines, we are considered brothers," said Lance Cpl. Matthew Brown a unit diary clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "Identity theft in the Marine Corps is a corruption of our core values."

Station residents can combat identity theft by always securing documents containing their account, pin, Social Security, credit card numbers and their date of birth.

"I want the people out there to know what they are facing," said Wikel. "There are people that lurk and look for your personal information."



# In-Yoh! samurai horseback archery

LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Samurai are tradition-ally depicted with a sword; however, a bow was also an important part of a Samurai's inventory during ancient times. It wasn't until the 1400s, as a result of changing battle conditions, that samurai began to rely strongly on swords.

In the beginning of the Kamakura period (1185-1333), Minamoto no Yoritomo founded the ritual of Japanese horseback archery, called Yabusame. Minamoto no Yoritomo ruled as a shogun of the Kamakura Shogunate, a feudal military dictatorship, from 1192-1199.

He was alarmed by the lack of archery skills his samurai had, and organized Yabusame as a form of practice.

Many community members here were afforded the opportunity to experience Yabusame during an Information, Tours and Travel trip to the Tswano Horseback Archery Festival April 12.

The festival is held annually in the town surrounded by mountains on the second Sunday of April at the Washibara-Hachimangu Shrine.

A Shinto ceremony was held at the shrine to wish success and safety to the riders while they prepared themselves and their horses for the long-awaited event.

According to the Tswano Tourist Association, riders individually practice pulling and releasing arrows. Sometimes they even ride on wooden horses to practice.

Adorned in their traditional costumes, riders made one slow trot around the 255-meter dirt track



A rider releases an arrow and hits the first target during the Tswano Horseback Archery Festival April 12. In the beginning of the Kamakura period (1185-1333), Minamoto no Yoritomo founded the ritual of Japanese horseback archery, Yabusame.

before proceeding to the starting line.

With a kick of their heels, the riders took off in a dead sprint on horseback. The horse's hooves pounded the ground, causing dirt clouds to fill the air.

Three 50-centimeter square targets were placed along the side of the track. As riders approached the targets, they drew their arrows and shouted "In-Yoh," meaning darkness and light, as the arrows pierced through the air.

The targets broke with a loud crack upon impact and splinters of wood flew through the air.

Since the bow is recognized as a symbol of authority and power, it is considered an admirable accomplishment if the rider can hit all three targets.

"Archers keep the position of aiming while controlling the running speed of their horse without holding the bridle," said Hiroe Ruby, an Information and Referral specialist here. "To hit all three targets is called Kaichu.

For archers to hit all targets requires superior skills."

For the ultimate souvenir, spectators could purchase targets and arrowheads after the festival concluded.

"Yabusame is characterized as a ritual rather than a sport because of its solemn style and religious aspects," said Ruby. "The original aspects of Yabusame have (been) kept until present time and the ability of Americans to witness the ritual within close distance is definitely worth it."

APRIL PROMOTIONS	<b>CLC-36</b> Lance Cpl. Nichols, Robert J.	<b>MAG-12</b> Sgt. Sanders III, Kenneth W.	<b>MALS-31</b> Sgt. Treanor, Tyler P.	<b>VMFA(AW)-225</b> Sgt. Anderson, Daniel
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	<b>Cpl.</b> Guilamo, Melvin Kee, Thiam C. Mello, Matthew T.	<b>MALS-12</b> Sgt. Yardman, Seth G.	<b>Lance Cpl.</b> Albanes, Patricia E. Bryant, Jeffrey L. Contreras, Victor R. Hunt, Hershel Hutzell, Justin T. Meshak Jr., Paul F. Reyes, Abel S. Roman, Joshua M. Wong, Jeremy K.	<b>Staff Sgt.</b> Johnson, Jacob D.
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		<b>Lance Cpl.</b> Amato, Nicholas P. Coccio, Nicholas J. Maldonado, Ricky G.		<b>Lance Cpl.</b> Artap, Marc Joseph A. Coulstring Jr., Jeffery P.

# Strongman Competition

## Participants weigh in to test strength

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Community members from around the station participated in the Strongman Competition at Penny Lake here April 11.

Marines and sailors competed in the event to earn bonus points for the Commander's Cup.

The competition consisted of five events, including the farmer's walk, tire flip, log press, crucifix and the Humvee pull.

The competition started off at 7 a.m. with weigh-ins. Weight classes were broken down into five groups, two for females and three for males.

The first event of the day was the farmer's walk.

Competitors carried weighted barbells at their sides and walked out to a cone that was set 50 yards from where they started.

The weights started at 140 pounds for females and 260 for males and increased by 20 pounds for each weight class.

The contestants walked back and forth until they couldn't stand to carry the weights anymore and their total distance traveled was tallied for score.

In the tire flip, men negotiated a 400-pound, 7-ton truck tire while women did the same with a 150-pound, 5-ton truck tire for maximum number of flips in a time span of 60 seconds.

"Tire flipping was one of the roughest portions of the competition," said Joshua A. Foster, an aviation ordnance specialist and a returning competitor in the

Strongman Competition.

During the log press, women pressed a 34-pound bar and men started with a 64-pound bar, increasing for each weight class, for maximum repetitions in a minute.

The crucifix portion of the competition consisted of holding out kettle bells in each hand at eye level for time.

Females held 12-pound weights in each hand while males held 18-pound weights.

For the last and most difficult portion of the event, female participants pulled a 2-ton truck while males pulled a 3-ton Humvee a distance of 65 feet for time. Contestants had a maximum of 75 seconds to complete this event.

"The Humvee pull was, without a doubt, the hardest but most exciting part of the competition," said Foster.

As the competition came to an end, morale was still high.

Even as the competition grew harder and harder, the sportsmanship seemed to get stronger. Everyone was there to win but they still wanted their peers to do the best they could. Contestants kept up their motivation throughout the day.

"Events like these really bring the Marines together as a community and boost the camaraderie," said Tara Highbaugh, who won first place in the Strongman Competition for the females.

For more information about upcoming events, contact Marine Corps Community Services' Semper Fit Division at 253-5225.



PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN



PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

(Top) Allen Goode, a contestant in the 191-pound and up weight class, presses the nearly 200-pound bar during the 3rd Annual Strongman Competition here April 11. Contestants had to press the bar as many times as they could in 60 seconds. (Bottom) Vickie Feyedelem pulls a 2-ton truck in the final event of the 3rd Annual Strongman Competition. Participants had to pull the vehicle 65 feet in under 75 seconds.

## Final Results

### Women's

**130 pounds or less**

- 1st - Meryl Esping
- 2nd - Shannon Heywood
- 3rd - Yolanda Olivas

**131 pounds or more**

- 1st - Tara Highbaugh
- 2nd - Carlie Lehner
- 3rd - Vickie Feyedelem

### Men's

**160 pounds or less**

- 1st - Joshua Foster
- 2nd - Bryan Morgan
- 3rd - Adrian Figueroa

**161 - 190 pounds**

- 1st - Jeffrey Velazquez
- 2nd - Kevin Chang
- 3rd - Medford Cole

**191 pounds or more**

- 1st - Mason Thompson
- 2nd - Khidir Chapman
- 3rd - Kevin Ross



# Oshima Bike Rally

## Bikes, tattoos, barbecues: Motorcycle enthusiasts gather at annual bike meeting

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Japanese and American motorcycle enthusiasts gathered at Katazoe Beach for the 6th Annual Oshima Island Camp Meeting April 11 and 12.

The event was organized by the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club and attracted approximately 500 motorcyclists from across the country.

“We’ve got riders here from as far north as Tokyo and as far south as Nagasaki,” said Michael K. Gingles, Iwakuni Motorcycle Club president.

“It’s our shared passion for motorcycles that brings us together at an event like this.”

The gathering transformed a normally quiet Japanese campground into a loud and festive scene with motorcycles roaring in the background, tattooed motorcyclists walking about and the smell of barbecues wafting in the air.

The campground promptly became one massive coil of parked bikes, tents, portable charcoal grills, food stands, clothes vendors and an impromptu amphitheater where local bands jammed heavy metal classics throughout the night.

“The whole atmosphere made me feel like I wasn’t even in Japan,” said Pfc. Owen O. Valdivia, who volunteered at the event as a traffic guide. “The clear water beaches, palm tree lined streets, beach front hotels and the sound of motorcycles roaring in the background brought me right back home to Tampa, Florida.”

Oshima Island is a favorite destination for the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club.

According to Gingles, its pristine beaches

and palm tree lined streets remind club members of their favorite rides back in the states.

Last year, members of the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club met with the island’s mayor, Tomio Nakamoto, to hand him 200,000 yen in cash that the club had earned during the 5th Annual Oshima Island Camp Meeting.

“One of the main reasons we put together this event is so we can earn money to give right back to the community,” said Gingles.

“We’re eager to find out how much money was made at this year’s camp meeting so we can know how much we’re going to be able to give away this year.”

The club’s donations are used by Oshima officials for elderly care and traffic safety measures on the island.

In addition to making monetary donations to the island, club members and service members here frequently participate in beach clean-ups on Oshima Island and make visits to elderly care facilities.

“Our club’s main goal is to foster a good relationship with the local community on Oshima Island and here in Iwakuni,” said Gingles. “We’re always trying to come up with different and better ways to give back to the community.”

The Iwakuni Motorcycle Club’s next event will take place during Friendship Day here May 5.

The club’s members will perform a “thunder run” along the runway and one of the club’s members will even race an airplane as it takes off.

Information, photos and schedules pertaining to the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club can be accessed on the club’s Web site at [www.iwakunimotorcycle.com](http://www.iwakunimotorcycle.com)



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

A Japanese motorcycle enthusiast rides his bike during the 6th Annual Oshima Island Camp Meeting April 11 and 12. The event was organized by the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club and attracted riders from across the country.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

A Japanese rider takes a ride along a row of food vendors at the 6th Annual Oshima Island Camp Meeting April 11 and 12. The annual event attracted approximately 500 motorcycle enthusiasts from across the country.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

A Japanese rider wins a leather vest with the Marine Corps emblem during the 6th Annual Oshima Island Camp Meeting April 11 and 12. The event was organized by the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

Approximately 500 motorcyclists from across the country participated in the 6th Annual Oshima Island Camp Meeting April 11 and 12. The event was put together by the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club as a way to earn money for charities and donations for the local community.



# Obama commends military, other agencies for captain’s rescue

ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL J. CARDEN  
CONTRIBUTED

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2009 – President Barack Obama today praised the U.S. military for the Navy’s successful efforts over the weekend to rescue the kidnapped captain of the Maersk-Alabama cargo ship from Somali pirates.

“I am very proud of the efforts of the U.S. military and the many other departments and agencies that worked tirelessly to resolve this situation,” Obama said during a visit to the Transportation Department here.

Capt. Richard Phillips was rescued by Navy SEALs aboard the USS Bainbridge Sunday after being held hostage for a reported \$2 million ransom in a lifeboat about 18 miles from the Somali coast for five days. SEAL snipers shot and killed the three pirates holding Phillips captive.

Phillips and his 20-member crew were about 300 miles from the coast when the pirates engaged. He offered himself to the pirates as a hostage to deter aggression toward his ship and crew, who eventually regained control of the ship.

“I share our nation’s admiration for Captain Phillips’ courage and leadership and selfless concern for his crew,” the president said. “His safety has been our principal concern. And I know (the rescue) came as a welcome relief to his family and his crew.”

Obama said the United States is “resolved to halt the rise of piracy” off the Somali coast and in the Gulf of Aden, where pirates have become more defiant and regular in their attacks against unarmed vessels.

“We’re going to have to continue to work with our partners to prevent future attacks,” he said. “We have to continue to be prepared to confront them when they arise. And we have to ensure that those who commit acts of piracy are held accountable for their crimes.”

Piracy is a growing concern for the United States and internationally, but the issue may worsen without a solid solution, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters here.



Capt. Richard Phillips, right, master of the cargo ship Maersk-Alabama, who had been captured by pirates, stands alongside U.S. Navy Cmdr. Frank Castellano, commanding officer of USS Bainbridge after being rescued by U.S. Naval Forces off the coast of Somalia. Phillips was held hostage for four days by the pirates.

“If that last couple of days have taught us anything, it reinforces the fact that (piracy) is a complicated and international problem that needs to be addressed broadly,” Whitman said. “I am fairly certain in the days ahead that this will be an issue that not only this department, but the government at large ... could be doing as a national (effort) and with other international organizations, and with allies in the region as well.

Whether it’s humanitarian aide to Somalia or possible military training to Somalis, Whitman said, there’s no shortage in ways and means the United States and international partners could approach the piracy issue and

Somalia’s lack of a legitimate government. The pure size of the region presents difficulties, he added.

“Clearly, it’s a big challenge when you’re talking about a coastline and body of water as large as it is, and you’re dealing with a country that is largely ungoverned — that certainly is a complicating situation,” Whitman said.

“We’ll just have to see in the days ahead,” he added. “There are going to be a lot of smart people in this government that examine (the piracy issue) closely and see what else we might be able to do to prevent things like this from happening in the future, at least mitigate the number (of attacks) and seriousness.”

## Navy’s rescue mission ‘textbook,’ but piracy still looms, Gates says

JOHN J. KRUZEL  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS  
SERVICE

QUANTICO, Va., April 13, 2009 – The U.S. military’s rescue of a kidnapped American ship captain yesterday was “textbook,” but the issue of piracy is likely to worsen in the absence of a systemic solution, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said today.

Off the Somali coast Sunday, U.S. special operations snipers on the USS Bainbridge shot and killed three pirates who had held hostage the captain of the Maersk-Alabama cargo ship on a lifeboat for five days. Military officials said Capt. Richard Phillips’ life was in imminent danger at the time of his rescue.

“It was textbook,” Gates said of the operation. “They were patient. They got the right people and the right equipment in place, and then did what they do.”

Gates, speaking at the Marine Corps War College here, said two groups of military operators were involved in the rescue — one

based in the region and one based in the United States — with each requiring separate authority from President Barack Obama. “And the approval was given virtually immediately in both cases,” Gates said.

Despite the operational precision of the rescue, however, the question of how to deal with the broader issue of piracy still looms large, with 111 incidents reported last year on the east coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, according to the International Chamber of Commerce.

“Is there a way to deal with this in a systemic way that reduces the risk and brings the international community together in a productive way to deal with the problem?” Gates said. “I think we’re going to end up spending a fair amount of time on this in the administration, seeing if there is a way to try and mitigate this problem of piracy.”

Gates said the historical case of Southeast Asia’s solution to its piracy problem does not generally apply to the current Somali-

based issue. In Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries, for instance, central governments played a role in stemming piracy, he said.

“(They) acquired some capabilities — and we helped them in some of those capabilities in terms of surveillance and patrolling — and because each of those countries has a functioning government, the piracy problem in Southeast Asia has been dramatically reduced,” he said.

“The problem is easier to deal with when the surrounding land — as in the case of Southeast Asia and the Straits of Malacca — is controlled by real governments that have real capabilities, which is not the case in Somalia,” he explained. “So it is a serious international problem, and it’s probably going to get worse.”

Gates, emphasizing the limitations of a purely military approach, said some have suggested bypassing the central government of Somalia and instead establishing relationships with officials of functioning local governments

there.

“There is no purely military solution to it,” he said. “And as long as you’ve got this incredible number of poor people and the risks are relatively small, there’s really no way in my view to control it unless you get something on land that begins to change the equation for these kids.”

Gates noted the four pirates involved in kidnapping the Maersk-Alabama captain were 17 to 19 years old, and he cited the dangerous combination of untrained youth and arms.

“Untrained teenagers with heavy weapons,” he told the group of 30 students and faculty members at the Marine Corps War College. “Everybody in the room knows the consequences of that.”

Gates underscored that the piracy issue will likely be an important agenda item in coming weeks.

“All I can tell you is I am confident we will be spending a lot of time in the situation room over the next few weeks trying to figure out what in the world to do about this problem,” he said.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**TAMP and FMEP Survey**  
The Transition Assistance Management Program and Family Member Employment Program will be conducting a survey from Wednesday - May 29. Your feedback will help us improve the services we provide to military members and their families. The survey link is [www.websrg.com/MCHQ/](http://www.websrg.com/MCHQ/).

**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 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.

**Commissary Case Lot Sale**  
The Iwakuni Commissary will hold its semi-annual case lot sale May 15 - 17. The sale is themed, "the under \$10 case sale" because many items will be priced under \$10 per case. We also plan for fun and games, so mark calendars and plan to shop early for the best deals.

**UMUC Term V Classes**  
University of Maryland University College registration for face-to-face classes runs 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. April 20 - May 31 and classes run from June 1 - July 25. Registration for online classes runs April 20 - June 15 and classes run June 15th - August 23. For more information, contact your local UMUC field representative at 253-3392.

**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.

**“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.

**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 23, and 30. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program at 253-6553.

**Boosting Your Baby’s Brain**  
Bring your 1- to 12-month-old baby to learn various brain-boosting activities through games, songs and more 10 - 11 a.m. Sunday. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program 253-6553.

**Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline: 253-3124**  
Run by the Station Inspector’s Office, the hotline can also be used to report sexual assault.

**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. Monday. For more information, contact the Victim Advocacy Program at 253-4526.

**Commissary Friendship Day Change**  
The Commissary will be open 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. May 4 to assist our community with their shopping needs. The Commissary will close May 5 for Friendship Day and reopen on May 6 with regular hours.

**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. Monday. 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. Deadline to sign up is May 15. Visit [www.westpacificgirlscouts.com](http://www.westpacificgirlscouts.com) or call 098-970-2323 for more information.

**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.

**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.

**UMUC Congratulates Spring 2009 Graduates**  
The University of Maryland University College would like to congratulate the following spring 2009 graduates: Anthony J. Alexander, Denzil C. Bauer, Nichol Marie Fuentes, James Howard Hawley, Brian K. Johnson, Jeremy C. Lockett, Brent Ottis Miller, Leslie Phillips, Adrian Sena, Marlena G. Smith, Lauralee S. Snyder, Joshua J. Wigant and Taeko Yokoyama.

**4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament**  
The Fil-Am Iwakuni 4-Man scramble golf tournament will start at noon Saturday. 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.

## SAKURA THEATER

**Friday, April 17, 2009**  
7 p.m. Fired Up (PG-13)  
*Premier*  
10 p.m. The International (R)  
*Premier*

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**  
1 p.m. Monsters Vs. Aliens (PG)  
4 p.m. Coraline (PG)  
*Premier*  
7 p.m. Friday the 13th (R)  
10 p.m. Fired Up (PG-13)

**Sunday, April 19, 2009**  
1 p.m. Coraline (PG)  
4 p.m. Fired Up (PG-13)  
7 p.m. The International (R)

**Monday, April 20, 2009**  
7 p.m. Coraline (PG)

**Tuesday, April 21, 2009**  
7 p.m. Taken (PG-13)  
*Last Showing*

**Wednesday, April 22, 2009**  
7 p.m. New in Town (PG-13)  
*Last Showing*

**Thursday, April 23, 2009**  
7 p.m. The Uninvited (PG-13)  
*Last Showing*

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

253-5291



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Automobiles

**1999 Mitsubishi Chariot Grandis**  
JCI good until August 2010, road tax paid, automatic, 4-door, seats seven, great A/C and heat, power windows/locks, AM/FM Stereo, CD/cassette player. \$3,000. For more information, call 253-2031 (home) or 090-8406-8890 (cell).

**1996 Mitsubishi Delica**  
JCI good until Jan 2010, black, 4-wheel-drive van, runs great, 72,000Km. \$3700. Road tax

paid. For more information, call 080-3319-5656.

## Miscellaneous

**Couch for Sale**  
Green and beige large couch includes four back cushions and two pillows. \$100 OBO. For more information, call 253-2554 (home).

**Items for Sale**  
Joovy Groovy double stroller, green, side-by-side, used 4 months, great condition, paid

\$200 brand new - \$150 OBO.  
Single Jeep stroller - \$5 OBO.  
Safety 1st single stroller, good condition, car seat adapter can be purchased for it, easy folding and unfolding - \$50 OBO.  
Baby mattress, good condition - \$20 OBO.  
For more information call, 090-8505-2818 or e-mail [chris\\_leighann.junkins@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_leighann.junkins@yahoo.com) for pictures.

To submit an advertisement request, click the news link, then the classifieds link and then the request form link on the station Web site to open an advertisement request form. Submit the form via Web site, or send an e-mail to [iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil](mailto:iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil). Alternatively, you can submit in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.

- The deadline for submissions is Monday at 4:30 p.m.
- The request is effective for one week. If you want to extend a previously submitted ad for an additional week, notify the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

## Home use for antivirus tools and Microsoft products

GUNNERY SGT. JOSE R. PALOSCHAVEZ  
STATION OPERATIONS SECURITY OFFICER

Are you aware using unlicensed software can directly affect operations security?

How?  
Unlicensed software (e.g., spyware, malware, bootleg, etc.) is software maliciously or unintentionally inserted into an information system, home or work, to cause harm to that system or other systems, or to subvert them for uses other than those intended by their owners.

Over the last 20 years, malware has evolved from occasional "exploits" to a global, multi-billion dollar criminal industry.

Malware affects everyone! Malware is a major concern with an ever more interconnected world relying on the Internet for day-to-day operations, business processes and communication.

Operations can be severely affected by failing to follow basic OPSEC practices. How can you help?

Under the Enterprise Anti-Virus Software Contract,

Department of Defense users are provided with the latest generations of anti-virus technologies and capabilities for free.

Users must be DOD employees and must have a DOD PKI certificate.

Software must be downloaded from a DOD connected computer (NCMI) by visiting the following Web site: <https://infosec.navy.mil>, clicking on the Anti-Virus Tools tab, and then downloading your choice of McAfee or Symantec anti-virus software.

Another special program for Department of Navy personnel includes Microsoft products. Under the Home Use Program users are able to obtain a licensed copy of Microsoft Office, Windows or Mac version, Project or Visio desktop applications to install and use on a home computer.

Contractors are ineligible to participate.

There is a shipping cost involved with this program.

The authorized HUP applications are accessible by logging on to the NCMI Homeport (NMCI computer) at <https://www.homeport.navy.mil/news/articles/hup-license-info/>. Should the

link fail, enter "HUP" in Homeport's search box to locate the Home Use Program Page.

All DOD personnel are reminded that personally identifiable information and controlled unclassified information are not to be stored or otherwise used on personally owned laptops, desktops, personal electronic devices and other media storage.

Remember to adhere to our station commander's message about being vigilant. Vigilance may also be applied when protecting valuable, personal or critical information from being openly distributed via the Internet.

What is vigilant?  
According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, vigilant is defined as "alertly watchful especially to avoid danger."

In conclusion, do your part with OPSEC, an effective OPSEC posture is everyone's responsibility!

For more information on OPSEC, call 253-4247.

More information is also available from the station Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

pay checkage (money is withdrawn directly from student's paycheck)

If you are forced to withdraw from a class for reasons beyond your control such as temporary additional duty, change in shift, or emergency leave, then you may apply for a waiver of indebtedness via the Education Office.

If you know you have withdrawn from or failed a class, it is in your best interest to go ahead and take care of paying for the class immediately.

The Education Office has all of the information you need in order to take care of the payment.

Please make sure to check your work schedule before signing up for any class face to face or online to ensure you are free of duties, TAD, or other obligations that could prevent you from completing your class.

To submit questions to the Education Office, call 253-3853, stop by Building 411 Room 127 or e-mail [jennifer.l.walker@usmc.mil](mailto:jennifer.l.walker@usmc.mil).

# Commander's Cup 2009 Event III: Sumo Basho



Two Marines struggle against each other as they try to push the other out of bounds to win the fight during the 2009 Commander's Cup Challenge Sumo Basho event at the IronWorks Gym here April 10. The Marine who was able to force his opponent to the ground first or to step out of bounds was declared the winner of the match.

## BHC sailors knock down competition,

PFC. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

As Marines and sailors stepped into the ring they stomped their feet upon the ground and rubbed their fat sumo bellies or pounded their fists on their chests before they faced-off in awkward wrestling matches.

Some stumbled and fell while others victoriously shook the ground as they hopped up and down flailing their arms and shouting their war cries.

Marine and sailor units clad in sumo wrestling fat-suits hit the mats to compete in the 2009 Commander's Cup Challenge Sumo Basho event at the IronWorks Gym here April 10.

"The last event that we had was the 300," said Jeramie Johnson, the fitness coordinator with the Ironworks Gym. "We kind of wanted to change the tone a little bit and have something a little more light-hearted."

Four-man teams would fight one-by-one in the double elimination tournament.

Before beginning their bouts, Marines and sailors would struggle and aid each other into their uncomfortable sumo wrestling fat-suits.

The competing Marines then awkwardly faced-off against each other centered on a mat outlined with a circular ring to mark their boundaries. The Marine who could force his opponent to the ground or have him step out of bounds was declared the victor of the match.

After each teammate competed, the wins were tallied up and the winning unit would move on to fight the next opposing team.

"It's a lot of good fun, but when it comes down to it, it is unit competition," said Johnson.

The first match was won by a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marine after his opponent tried to push him off the mat and he simply popped him with his belly forcing him to fall flat on his back.

Marines would continue the bouts struggling against their opponents, and their own fat-suits as they pulled and pushed at each other, which at times resulted in both the competitors falling and tumbling to the ground.

Falling on their backs, Marines in their fat-suits would thrash about kicking and flailing their arms in the air resembling turtles on their backs struggling to get back up.

Marines falling on their bellies would flop about like fish on dry land.

"Wearing those suits is tough," said Cpl. Cristian Orozco, a Marine Aviation Logistics 12 flight equipment Marine. "It was hard to move but I made the best of it."

Some matches would take your mind back to David and Goliath as 5-foot-5-inch Marines would face-off against 6-foot-5-inch Marines.

"This guy is three-times bigger than me, but I can still take him down," Orozco said he was thinking as he faced his first and final opponent.

After Orozco lost his bout, he said he didn't think he did too bad and he still had fun. The final round came to a face-off between Branch Health Clinic sailors and H&HS Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Marines.

They bounced up and down in their fat-suits shouting and yelling, growling like gorillas striving to intimidate each before fighting.

Once they took to the mats, BHC service members came out on top placing H&HS ARFF Marines in second place with MALS-12 in third.

"It was fun and sweaty," said Gaven Sturdavant, event spectator and a 3rd-grader at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School.

Sturdavant said he really liked watching the Marines in their fat-suits yelling and fighting each other to the ground.

Inspired by the competition he just saw, Sturdavant tried on the fat-suits with his brother and had a match of his own, making what Orozco said true.

"It's the Commander's Cup, come out here to compete," said Orozco. "It's for everyone."

## Schedule of upcoming events

*May 12 - Tuesday Tune Up Crossroads Lobby, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Show up to learn more about an important health topic. Have at least five members of your team sign in to earn 10 points.*

*May 22 - The Amazing Race! Building 1 Parade Deck, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Test your physical and mental abilities by competing in this event.*

*June 5 - Indoor Triathlon IronWorks Gym, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Show up with three team members to compete in a 200-meter swim, a 5-mile stationary bike ride on level 9, and a 2-mile run on the treadmill.*



  **MCAS IWAKUNI**   
**FRIENDSHIP DAY**  
**MAY 5, 2009**



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**AIR SHOW 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[HTTP://WWW.FRIENDSHIP-DAY.NET](http://WWW.FRIENDSHIP-DAY.NET)