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FEATURE

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 16, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

250,000 visitors expected Friendship Day

COMPILED BY THE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The station will open its gates to host the 36th Annual Friendship Day here May 5.

The annual event is a unique opportunity for Japanese citizens to visit the base, view military and civilian aircraft and witness exciting aerial demonstrations.

"This is a fantastic air show," said Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, the station's commanding officer. "It's a great way to give back to the

local community and to showcase what we're doing here — with an emphasis on the word friendship."

Approximately 250,000 visitors are expected to come through the station's gates to attend this year's event.

The opening ceremony for the event will commence at 9 a.m. followed by a day's worth aerial acrobatics and demonstrations.

A myriad of military and civilian jets, and classic aircraft, including F-4 Phantoms, will perform fly-bys and demonstrations

throughout the day.

The Japanese Air Self-Defense Force's "Blue Impulse" aerobatic team and the Pacific Air Forces F-16 Demonstration Team from Misawa Air Base will awe spectators with carefully choreographed, fast-paced, high-performance maneuvers.

In addition to overhead exhibitions, the event will feature static displays of U.S. and Japanese aircraft, and military equipment

SEE **FRIENDSHIP** ON PAGE 2

Iwakuni Festival to bring thrilling cultural experience

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 32nd annual Kintai Festival is scheduled to take place 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Wednesday on the Japanese national holiday Showa Day in the Kintai Bridge area.

The festival draws more than 40,000 visitors every year and is one of the major sightseeing events here.

"Iwakuni was a castle town in the Edo Period. I think many children that were even raised in Iwakuni have been to the Kintai Bridge not knowing how it was hundreds of years ago," said Ryoji Yoneshige, the bureau chief for the Iwakuni Tourism Association. "I hope the event will promote the recognition of the old history of Iwakuni."

Main attractions include a daimyo procession, photo opportunity with kimono parade performers, a traditional Japanese samurai gunfire demonstration, a traditional Japanese Taiko drum performance, and local food vendors.

The daimyo procession is a traditional kimono parade and also a reproduction of the parade of the Iwakuni castle lord during the Edo period.

The parade across the Kintai Bridge runs 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For the very first time in festival history, photo opportunities with the kimono parade performers will be provided at Kikko Park 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Tourists, spectators and fans of Japanese traditional costumes are strongly encouraged to enjoy this opportunity.

Teppo-tai will perform a traditional Japanese samurai gunfire demonstration 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. on the riverbank next to the bridge.

A traditional Japanese Taiko drum performance will also be held at the riverbank from 2 – 2:30 p.m.

"There will be many booths for local foods and productions," said Yoneshige. "If you have never tried Iwakuni sushi before, it will be the time to give it a try."



CPL. CHRIS DOBBS

During the 30th annual Kintai-kyo Festival at Kikko Park, 350 Iwakuni residents participated in the Daimyo Procession across the historic bridge April 29, 2007. This year, for the first time ever, members of the procession will briefly be available for photographs with audience members.

The local food booths, available from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. will also include a Japanese tea ceremony booth.

"I hope the base personnel enjoy the atmosphere of the historical pageant here," said Yoneshige, "I believe it is important for us to offer an opportunity to experience Japanese culture for the base personnel in order to promote mutual understanding."

Cable Internet service expanded

PFC. CLAUDIO MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Communications Corporation is making high-speed cable Internet available to more station residents here starting this month.

The service is being presented to the residents of certain mid-rise towers and barracks as a more reliable and faster option to wireless or dial-up Internet.

"This is a faster and better product for everyone," said Gunnery Sgt. Douglas Dickover, a maintenance management officer with Station S-6.

Though the speed of the cable Internet connection will depend on the number of simultaneous users on the cable system, normal connection speeds will be approximately 1 megabit per second compared to the slower wireless connection speed of 200 kilobits per second and dial-up speeds of 30kbps.

The faster speed offered through cable Internet means faster uploads and downloads along with a constant, reliable connection.

The faster speed provided by cable Internet allows people to keep in touch better through chats and video chats. Cable Internet is a better service than wireless or dial-up Hamuri Damura, an NTT Communications clerk at the Sight and Sound Shop in the Marine Corps Exchange said.

Communication through wireless and dial-up is harder because of slower speeds and signal availability.

Wireless or dial-up signals could be weaker depending on where an occupant's room is located in the barracks or mid-rise

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Deep roots to living water

LT. DONALD BAKER
MARINE WING SUPPORT
SQUADRON 171 CHAPLAIN

I grew up as a military brat. My father was enlisted for 30 years in the military and needless to say, we moved around a great deal. Most recently I counted up all my moves (actual address changes) and I was astonished to learn that I had moved an amazing amount — 29 times by the time I was 29 years old and that is how I remember, 29 times by 29 years old. Those who have been around the military awhile can appreciate the statement, "I really don't have a hometown," especially when folks ask you, "Where are you from?"

My family and I were last stationed at Twentynine Palms aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. We lived out in a town on the outskirts of Twentynine Palms called Yucca Valley.

Yucca Valley is my hometown. We love it there and we plan on going back.

We would spend the majority of our weekends down in the Palm Springs area. In Palm Springs, there are massive palm trees, 80 feet or higher in size, that line the city streets. When Palm Springs began, city

planners decided to plant these palm trees to attract tourism and business.

The only problem was that it rained only a few times a year and it became difficult for trees or plants to grow in the desert when they don't naturally do it.

To solve the problem the city came up with a drip-irrigation system whereby these baby palm trees would receive water throughout the day even if there was no rain. As a result of the plentiful water and sun, the palm trees grew up to the colossal growths they are today.

The plan worked for the city of Palm Springs until the Santa Ana winds came strong one spring and brought hurricane force gusts of wind into the city. Many of these massive trees toppled over and fell right into the middle of the street.

What was exposed as the trees came down, were shallow root systems that did not go much deeper than the surface.

Trees that large usually have a deep and wide root system to match their size but these didn't. Why not?

The roots never had the opportunity to grow deep because there was always plenty of water at the surface. They never had the chance to look for the water deep underground.

In the desert, trees and their root systems grow the most during droughts and dry seasons because they have to go searching for the ground water if they want to survive. It is through the droughts that the plants and trees become hard and durable so that they will be able to survive floods, severe droughts and even fires.

So is the same for us. We have a society full of people who are adults in looks only but do not have root systems that go much deeper than the surface.

We have amazing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth as we go through life's trials and difficulties. Our marriages become strong when we face hardships, deployments and divorce but don't give up.

Our children learn character and endurance when we teach them how to be patient and not expect instant gratification.

We, as individuals, learn integrity, honesty and courage when we make difficult decisions in the face of adversity.

It is through these situations where our roots can grow to the deep living water that never runs out and never runs dry. My encouragement for you today is that no matter what you are facing this week or this year or in your life, do not ever give up but let your roots grow deep to the living water found in God and in his son, Jesus Christ.

Taking Patriot Express, pet owners must plan ahead

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Patriot Express made its debut this month as the station's primary means of transporting service members and their families on permanent change of station orders.

The Patriot Express is the U.S. military's only chartered commercial air service in the Pacific region that stops here between Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Yokota Air Base and Kadena Air Base.

"Although the Patriot Express has made

life a lot easier for service members and their families to travel, it has presented some challenges for families travelling with pets," said Gunnery Sgt. James A. Berry, Passenger Transportation staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

The Patriot Express provides 10 in cargo pet spaces and three in cabin pet spaces each flight.

"These pet spaces are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis and servicemembers from Yokota, Okinawa and Iwakuni are able to fill these spaces," said Berry. "As of right now all

pet spaces have been booked from now until August."

According to the Joint Federal Travel Regulation, government funds are not to be spent to provide pet transportation."

In other words, there's no entitlement for pet travel, and if service members cannot obtain a pet space on the Patriot Express, they must find an alternative way of transporting their pet.

Questions related to pets and the Patriot Express can be directed to the Traffic Management Office by calling 253-4058.

Safety stand-down to address 101 critical summer days

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

With April almost over, the station will enter the 101 critical days of summer beginning Monday and running until Sept. 11.

In order to protect the Corps' most valuable assets, its personnel, the station will conduct pre-summer safety stand-downs Wednesday and Thursday.

Stand-down presenters will cover traffic safety, water safety, environmental awareness, security awareness and operational risk management.

"All the information we're passing out is the minimum

of what they should take away," said Chris Yoneda, occupational safety and health specialist.

Each week during the 101 critical days, the Iwakuni Approach will feature an in-depth safety article.

"Having fun is very important but (station residents) should have a safety plan before they go out and stick to it," said Yoneda.

The stand-downs will feature master traffic safety instructor and stand-up comic Steve Verret.

While all the information covered is important, the first upcoming federal holiday is Memorial Day.

For the Memorial Day holiday, station residents are

more likely to return stateside where they will be driving on the opposite side of the road, said Yoneda.

Fatigue while driving can also come into play because of the dramatic time change involved in returning to the U.S., he added.

Besides traffic safety, summer is also strongly associated with water-based activities.

For a number of years, the station had recorded at least one fatality during recreational activities involving water said Yoneda.

As a result, water safety will be paramount in the coming summer months.

In any situation, risk management is always essential.

Computers, storage devices: Proper disposal

GUNNERY SGT. JOSE R. PALOSCHAVEZ
OPERATIONS SECURITY OFFICER

As computers and other electronic devices become obsolete sooner due to new technology, disposal of personal information is of serious concern.

Just one hard drive or CD has the potential to contain thousands of files.

So what is the best way to properly dispose a computer or storage device?

Well that depends on whether it is a government or personal one.

Department of Defense guidelines require any information that resides on hard drives or storage devices be degaussed with a degausser that appears on the National Security Agency evaluated products listed and must be physical destroyed.

In addition, all destructions must be approved in writing by the unit security manager.

Most government computers and storage devices are managed by Navy/Marine Corps Intranet. In this case, NMCI will ensure all applicable DOD guidelines are adhered to.

Computers or storages devices owned by the government and not managed by NMCI require proper disposal too. Approval by the unit information assurance manager is required.

Disposal discipline is highly recommended

for your own personal computer and storage devices. Why?

Personal information tends to accumulate over a period of time.

Accumulated information may include e-mails, bank statements, medical, income tax, spreadsheets, call logs and images.

All this information may lead to a potential identity theft.

Who wants their personal information transmitted over the Internet?

A recommended solution to properly dispose of your own personal computer is to format the hard drive(s) and storage device(s).

Another solution is to download BCWipe, a 32-bit disk and file wiping utility.

The utility can be downloaded by visiting the Navy Information Assurance Website at <https://infosec.navy.mil> and clicking on the COMPUSEC Tools link.

The utility must be downloaded from a government connected computer.

Peace of mind comes by knowing that your personal information is properly disposed.

Security whether government or personal is an ongoing process. Being aware of the threats and understanding your options will certainly enhance operations security.

An effective OPSEC posture is everyone's responsibility.

Corrections

In the April 17 edition of The Iwakuni Approach - Strongman Competition, the following females were listed in the incorrect weight classes. The correct class and place is below.

131 pounds or more
1st – Meryl Esping

130 pounds or less
1st – Tara Highbaugh

More Internet options in more station locations

CABLE FROM PAGE 1

towers. A weaker signal makes download and chat connections less stable.

Dickover said acquiring high-speed Internet is a quality of life issue for everyone here and that all families and Marines would benefit from signing up for the service.

Station residents who have already heard of the new cable Internet service being provided in their buildings have begun to make the switch.

"The wireless has been really, really hard," said Mary Beth Buenopatino. "We can't use iTunes to download shows and my husband is going to start taking classes. It's really hard for him to download videos or anything he needs for that," she added.

Buenpatino said they use the Internet daily to communicate with their family by sending pictures and videos and that they are thrilled to make the switch over to high-speed cable Internet.

"It's going to really change our life," said Buenpatino. "We are really excited."

To sign up for high-speed Internet, station residents must first go to the NTT Communication's counter located in the Sight and Sound Shop at the MCX here and buy a cable modem, an Ethernet cable and a coaxial cable totaling price of about \$94.

Station residents interested in the service must then open an account with NTT Communications by paying a \$25 registration fee and a first \$55 month fee.

Users will then be able to connect to the Internet within one business day after they sign up. To maintain service, users will pay a \$55 monthly fee.

Damura said people interested in signing up should hurry since there is a capacity of approximately 129 users per building.

If station residents fail to be one of the first 129 users in their building they can sign up on a waiting list.

Mid-rise towers now able to sign up for the service are 589, 655, 657, 658, 906, 955, 1200, and 1210.

Barracks now able to sign up for the service are 203, 204, 313, 314, 330, 1190, 1191, 1193, 1368, 1388, and 1395.

Barracks 1358 is at full capacity, and those interested in the service can be put on the waiting list.

Holocaust Remembrance Week



This Holocaust remembrance sculpture stands outside the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. The haunting piece was created by sculptor George Segal and installed in 1984. The sculpture has seen an increase in vandalism since the stock market fell in the fall of 2008.

How news of the Holocaust fell through the cracks during WWII

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

For one week in April every year, the Department of Defense observes Holocaust Remembrance Week. It is a chance to remember the horrific tragedy of the Holocaust.

Holocaust Remembrance Week is also an opportunity to educate and remind ourselves of lessons learned.

Today, wars dominate headlines next to genocide and disasters. Our minds are constantly riddled and bombarded with information from every direction.

With so much negative news entering our world, it can be easy for some reports to slip through the cracks. Missing a few stories is forgivable, but missing an entire genocide is a disgrace. Thus was the case in the 1940s when the world ignored the Holocaust.

In the summer of 1941, the Nazis began their “War on the Jews” by aggressively killing them via firing squads. Six

months later, fire squads became too expensive, prompting the Nazis to look for other options. After a few trial runs the Nazis began using Zyklon B, a cyanide-based insecticide which the Nazi’s initially tested on Russian prisoners of war. The large communal shower type rooms killed larger amounts of people for less money. By 1942, the Nazis had killed an estimated one million Jews, leaving one-sixth of the old world’s Jewish population dead.

Unfortunately, most civilians and service members in the United States and deployed overseas knew little to nothing about the Holocaust.

“As a unit, we knew nothing about the Holocaust,” said Rudy Schneider, an Army infantryman during World War II. “We were 20-30 miles away from a concentration camp and had no idea. We suspected something was going on, but no one wanted to believe it.”

The public’s lack of knowledge was a result of insufficient

coverage from the media, which at that time, was primarily newspapers. During World War II, many newspapers knew about the genocide occurring in Germany but consistently placed reports on back pages with small headlines. Some historians say small headlines and the lack of coverage was a result of the lack of photos and a level of disbelief and validity of early reports.

“Even though we were fighting the Germans many still didn’t believe they were capable of such atrocities,” said Schneider.

It was not until after the war that the general public began to realize what the Nazis had done to the Jews.

“After the war, we started seeing footage of the Holocaust in the movie theaters,” said Norma Curtis, a singer during World War II. “I couldn’t believe my eyes. The entire event was unfolding right there in front of me. The dead bodies, the crying people, it was all plastered on the big screen. The whispers of what the Nazis had done were

louder than ever. People could no longer deny it, but they certainly wanted to forget about it as soon as possible.”

To this day, people still argue whether or not the Holocaust ever occurred. The danger in forgetting and ignoring this tragedy is the danger of letting it happen again.

George Santayana, a Spanish-born American author of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries once said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

The mistakes we made during the Holocaust, failing to publicize it and talk about it, is one of the most important lessons we can take away from this moment in history.

By remembering and recognizing where we went wrong and where we could improve can only better us as a nation. Educating ourselves through the past can help propel us into the future and help us combat the current war against evil.



PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Runners in the 43rd Annual Kintai Marathon kick off the main marathon event at IronWorks Gym here Sunday. More than 1,000 contestants of all ages from around the station and throughout Japan participated.

43rd Annual Kintai Marathon brings more than 1,000 runners

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The air smelled of sunscreen and Bengay as community members and Japanese nationals of all ages prepared for the 43rd Annual Kintai Marathon at the IronWorks Gym here Sunday. The event consisted of a 13-mile half-marathon, a 26-mile marathon and a five-kilometer walk.

More than 1,000 contestants, young and old, attended the marathon in everything from Marine Corps green-on-green to florescent-colored running suits.

Runners started their morning by lathering up with sunscreen and stretching out before a quick warm-up that got everyone energized and ready for the race. The sound of a gun shot started the first race, the half-marathon, at 10 a.m. The marathon started at 10:10, and the walk kicked off at 10:20.

Runners ran the race individually and in teams, some with their children in strollers. Family and friends listened to music while bathing in the sun, socializing and cheering on their loved ones. Children played in the bounce house provided by Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni and waited

patiently for balloon animals from an artistic clown.

As competitors crossed the finish line, they quenched their thirst with water and juice, and grabbed a couple pieces of fruit from vendors outside of the gym.

“That was the longest I’ve ever ran in my life,” said Marc Morgenstern, a broadcaster with American Forces Network who had just completed his first half-marathon. “The hardest part about it was having to run the course twice.”

After cooling down from the race, contestants were provided with a hot plate of pasta and garlic bread.

Darci Kruse, the assistant director for the Health Promotions Office for Semper Fit, placed first in her division for the half-marathon after having a child only five and a half months ago.

“I ran all the way up until my due date,” said Kruse. “I ran about four miles a day, five times a week.”

“I hope to do the full marathon next year,” Kruse added. The marathon brought together community members from around the station and from around Japan to do what they all love to do ... run.

Children wait patiently as an artistic clown provides them with balloon animals of all shapes, sizes and colors at the 43rd Annual Kintai Marathon held at the IronWorks Gym here Sunday. Other vendors provided by Marine Corps Community Services included clothing, food and drinks, and a bounce house.



PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

43rd Annual Kintai Marathon Race Winners

Marathon

Men Overall

Fujita Yu (2:41:30)

Men 29 years and under

Yamanishi Satoshi (2:49:30)

Men 30-49 years

Shigeta Ishou (2:46:10)

Men 50 years and over

Nakamoto Hiroyuki (2:59:08)

Women Overall

Ego Keiko (3:27:17)

Women 34 years and under

Tess Burke (4:02:58)

Women 35 years and over

Oka Satomi (3:32:16)

Team Division PMO 5.0 (3:31:12), MACS-4 A (3:52:13), PMO HHS (3:54:05)

Half-marathon

Men Overall

Hirayama Motoo (1:13:49)

Men 29 years and under

Andrew Lund (1:20:02)

Men 30-49 years

Sakata Naoki (1:18:44)

Men 50 years and over

Hamawaki Katsuji (1:19:30)

Women Overall

Saito Iku (1:29:11)

Women 34 years and under

Darci Kruse (1:43:12)

Women 35 years and over

Suzuki Hiroko (1:42:32)



Marines and sailors took a moment at the bridge entering the Akiyoshidai cave to snap photos and enjoy the scenery during a trip with the Single Marine Program here April 19. Upon entering the cave, Marines and sailors were able to enjoy the labyrinth of trails that give way to large limestone sculptures formed by nature.

Akiyoshido Cave



The Akiyoshidai cave is the largest limestone cave in East Asia. Those looking for a little adventure had the opportunity to explore hidden passageways off the beaten course during a trip to the caves with the Single Marine Program here April 19.

Single Marines and sailors explore one of Japan’s natural wonders

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The workweek can be long and tiring. So, when the weekend comes around, it can be easy to lock oneself in a room and never see the light of day.

It is important for service members to catch up on some rest, but it is also important to get off base and out into Japan for an often-needed change of pace.

Service members took a trip to the Akiyoshidai cave, the largest limestone cave in East Asia Sunday through the Single Marine Program.

“I had heard of the trip and was really interested in attending,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Javier Esparza, squadron leading petty officer for Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225. “All I had to do was swing by the Hornet’s Nest and give them \$20 and my name was on the list.”

The bus was filled with more than 30 people when it departed for a two-hour excursion through the mountains.

Upon arrival, the service members started walking down the long, tile pathways lined with shops leading to the cave.

Marines and sailors took a moment at the bridge entering the cave to snap photos and enjoy the scenery.

“It was amazing walking up to the opening of the cave,” said Cpl. Lydia Raynor, a mechanic for VMFA (AW)-225. “You are surrounded by trees and mountains and then all of a sudden you see this pond of crystal blue water that is pouring out of the cave.”

Upon entering the cave, Marines and sailors were able to enjoy the labyrinth of trails that give way to large limestone sculptures formed by nature.

The limestone that forms Akiyoshidai cave took life as a coral reef 300-million years ago according to the Akiyoshido tourist brochure. The intricate and complex landscape of the cave is a result of rainwater, which tends to dissolve and form the rock into different patterns.

“Different rocks had different names,” said Raynor. “The rock formations had different buttons that you could press to hear the explanation on how the rock got its name.”

In order to better enjoy the caves, lights have been dramatically placed to exaggerate the shape of the enormous sculptures.

Those looking for a little adventure have the opportunity to put their climbing skills to the test while in the cave. For a donation, visitors can climb the side of the cave through passageways that lead to an amazing bird’s-eye view of the cave.

From beginning to end, the entire cave stretches 10 kilometers and maintains a temperature of roughly 17 degrees Celsius year-round.

When service members exited the back of the cave, they began to make their trek back to the beginning via trails that stretched over the top of the cave.

“The walk back was beautiful with all the bamboo and wide open spaces,” said Raynor. “After the walk, we went back to all the shops and restaurants. It was fun enjoying nature and then enjoying all the tourist stuff. The trip was definitely the best of both worlds.”

The shops featured an assortment of items made from various stones.

After paying for the bus ride, admission, food and souvenirs, many Marines and sailors were impressed with how cheap the entire experience was.

“It wasn’t an expensive trip,” said Esparza. “The whole day cost me only 60 bucks. I highly recommend a trip like this to anyone looking to get off their butts and out into nature.”

The next Single Marine Program trip to the caves is June 7.

Single and unaccompanied service members interested in visiting the caves can stop by the Hornet’s Nest for more information. For those not eligible for the Single Marine Program, Information Tours and Travel also offers trips to the cave.



A monkey sits outside the Safari Land shop, entertaining people as they pass. Visitors often make the adventure a day-long trip by visiting Safari Land after exploring the caves.



One of many manmade sculptures sits at the entrance of the Akiyoshidai cave. Man-made sculptures and natural rock formations throughout the cave featured plaques explaining facts about the cave and its contents.



Service members hike alongside a walkway that leads back to the opening of the Akiyoshidai cave during a trip with the Single Marine Program here April 19. Service members enjoyed shopping and dining at local businesses once they arrived back at the cave entrance.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

1st LAR Bn. completes seven-month tour, heads home

SGT. DEAN DAVIS
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 8

SAHL SINJAR, Iraq – True to the words of Sophocles, in that ‘there is no success without hardship,’ few could argue. Marines and sailors of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8 experienced both during their deployment to Iraq.

During the “Highlander’s” seven-month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the majority of their time was spent near the Sinjar Mountains in Iraq’s Ninewa Province operating from a remote airfield established manned and maintained by Marines.

“Interdicting smuggling and infiltration of foreign fighters moving into Mosul was a great success,” said Lt. Col. Scott D. Leonard, commanding officer of 1st LAR Battalion. “While doing this, we were able to get back to our roots as a light armored reconnaissance battalion by operating independently in a very austere environment with a very small support footprint.”

And austere it was, explained Leonard, with platoons staying up to 80 days outside the wire, conducting reconnaissance and screening operations in wind, rain and snow.

“After staying out for weeks, sleeping on the ground and living out of vehicles, providing a place for Marines to return for rest and a hot meal presented some challenges,” said Leonard. “I think they learned the value of what is truly important; what things you really need. They had very little and I believe it strengthened the platoons and gave them confidence by operating in such hardship.”

Though operational successes of recent months were apparent, the changes Iraq has made over the years could be seen by many of the Marines with the battalion during previous deployments, explained Maj. Jon A. Custis, the battalion executive officer.

“We have been here as a supporting effort to the Iraqis, and they have been very proactive in security for this region. This is a positive step,” said Custis. “In some degree I think the average man on the street still wants Americans to stay, but the Iraqi Security Forces have really shown themselves to be effective and reliable.”

As the Marine Corps begins to shift its focus to Afghanistan and talk of troop draw downs continue, Leonard believes the efforts of Coalition forces have allowed Iraqis to reach a point of independence in securing peace



SAHL SINJAR, Iraq – Cpl. Matthew R. Adams, a logistics vehicle system operator with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, guides a light armored vehicle in for fuel during a resupply mission north of the Sinjar Mountains, Iraq.

for their nation.

“This is certainly the capstone of my deployments to Iraq,” said Leonard. “This deployment has shown me that the Iraqi Security Forces are true warriors and a competent military force and the elections were a great example of that.”

During Iraq’s provincial elections in January, 1st LAR Bn. provided over-watch security

with ISF patrolling the polling sites. The arrangement yielded no violent incidents, and in a region with much cultural and ethnic disparity.

“These Marines and sailors covered themselves in glory this deployment,” said Leonard. “They have earned my eternal respect and the future of the United States and Iraq will be in good hands by the deeds of these men.”

Marines use teamwork to prepare for final exercise of Mojave Viper

LANCE CPL. JOHN MCCALL
1ST MARINE DIVISION

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Teamwork is something instilled in Marines during boot camp and is carried on throughout their tour of duty, and teamwork was present in Marines training for war at Mojave Viper.

Marines with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment participated in a clear-hold-build exercise here March 26.

This was the third and final clear-hold-build exercise of Mojave Viper, the most advanced desert warfare training the Marine Corps offers units preparing to deploy.

“We did a battalion-size attack,” said Lance Cpl. Levi Drinville, an automatic rifleman with Company B, 1st Bn., 5th Marines. “After our objective was clear, we provided overwatch for the other companies while they secured their objective.”

This live-fire assault used antipersonnel obstacle breaching systems set by combat engineers, putting Marines into a situation where a combat mindset was essential.

“Working with explosives and live rounds makes the training much more realistic,” said Drinville.

“Dealing with combined arms lets you see more of the big picture. It shows how there are a lot of moving parts to what we do,” Drinville explained.

This was the first exercise where the battalion worked together to complete one

mission. Using what they have learned while training at Mojave Viper, the troops completed their many objectives as a group.

“It taught us how to work together as a battalion,” said Lance Cpl. Andrew Aadland, a rifleman with Co. B. “The training does what it’s supposed to do; it sums up everything we’ve done so far.”

One purpose of this exercise was to help prepare the battalion for their final exercise. All the training received at Mojave Viper leads up to a final exercise where the battalion will apply everything they’ve learned during their predeployment training.

“So far we’ve been practicing a lot of conventional warfare where you have set targets and enemy,” said Aadland. “What we’re doing next is more like counter-insurgency where we have to go house-to-house trying to find the bad guys.”

Much of Mojave Viper’s training exercises are located in some of California’s most mountainous areas, designed to create an environment similar to that of Afghanistan.

“Being out here training in this terrain is good,” Drinville said. “From what I’ve heard, this area is similar to what we’ll be dealing with in Afghanistan.”

Nearing the end of Mojave Viper, Marines have a better understanding of what to expect when deployed to Afghanistan and how to deal with the many challenges that lay ahead.

“This training is very demanding,” said Aadland. “But the hardest part is just being gone for such a long period of time.”



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment assault an enemy bunker during the clear portion of a clear-hold-build exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. This was the third and final clear-hold-build exercise of Mojave Viper, the most advanced desert warfare training the Marine Corps offers units preparing to deploy.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Prayer Breakfast

The chapel will sponsor a national day of prayer breakfast 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. May 7 at the South side mess hall. The cost is \$2.30 for non-meal card holders. For more information, contact the station chapel at 253-3371.

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.

Girl Scouts Summer Camp 2009

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

TAMP and FMEP Survey

The Transition Assistance Management Program and Family Member Employment Program will be conducting a survey until 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/.

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.

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.

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 is 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. until May 31 and classes run from June 1 –

July 25. Registration for online classes runs until June 15 and classes run June 15 – Aug. 23. For more information, contact your local UMUC field representative at 253-3392.

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.

Onsite Mammograms at Branch Health Clinic

The Branch Health Clinic will be conducting mammograms via an onsite van May 18 – 22. For more information or to set up an appointment through your primary care doctor, contact central appointments at 253-3445.

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. Thursday. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program at 253-6553.

“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.

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. Tuesday 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 this day. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program at 253-6553.

Marine security guard screening

- The Marine Corps Embassy Security Group is scheduled to visit Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni June 4.
- Marines will be provided the opportunity to be screened and interviewed for possible assignment to Marine Security Guard School.
- All Marines currently in receipt of orders to MSG School are required to attend the brief.
- Interested Marines are encouraged to attend.
- To be screened and interviewed, Marines must complete the MSG commanding officers checklist.
- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. – MSG Brief in the Building 1 auditorium.
- 9:45 a.m. – Screening begins in the Building 1 auditorium.
- For more information, contact your command’s career retention specialist or visit <http://www.msghn.usmc.mil>.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, April 24, 2009

7 p.m. Race to Witch Mountain (PG)

Premier

10 p.m. Fast and Furious 4 (PG-13)

Premier

Saturday, April 25, 2009

1 p.m. Race to Witch Mountain (PG)

4 p.m. Hannah Montana: The Movie (G)

Premier

7 p.m. Fast and Furious 4 (PG-13)

10 p.m. Watchmen (R)

Sunday, April 26, 2009

1 p.m. Hannah Montana: The Movie (G)

4 p.m. Race to Witch Mountain (PG)

7 p.m. Fast and Furious 4 (PG-13)

Monday, April 27, 2009

7 p.m. Hannah Montana: The Movie (G)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

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

Last Showing

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

7 p.m. Push (PG-13)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

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

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 or call 253-5291.

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1994 Mitsubishi Delica

JCI good until Nov., excellent condition, diesel, 4X4, seats 7. \$1800. For more information call 253-2683 (home) or 080-3469-4859 (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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

1994 Toyota Supra

JCI good until Sept. 2010, runs great, automatic, air conditioner/heater, cassette player/CD player/iPod connector, automatic key lock. Moving in June. \$5500 OBO. For more information, call 253-5509 (work) or 080-3750-6690 (cell).

1997 Honda S/MX

JCI good until June 2010, silver body with orange seats, power windows/locks/remote starter, new CD player, and very roomy. In good condition and gets great gas mileage! Asking \$3,200 OBO. For more information, call 253-2744 (home).

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).

Honda Logo

JCI good until Oct. 2010, 4-door hatchback, keyless entry, power everything, mechanically sound, never had any trouble. Great little car for driving out in town that gets great gas mileage. Road tax paid, asking \$2,200. For more information, call 253-4327 (work) or 253-2968 (home).

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. 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.

Ask the Education Office:

What is Discover?

Discover is an awesome program that allows Marines and sailors the chance to "discover" career options and learn about themselves.

For those service members that do not know where to begin with their college education this program is a great stepping stone.

There are interest, value, and ability inventories built in to the program.

Inventories are simply a series of questions you answer about yourself, and when you complete all three you receive an immediate summary of your natural talents broken down into careers that might interest you.

When you click on a career the program allows you to browse different degree

majors (college degrees) needed in order to qualify for that job.

After selecting a major you can search for colleges that offer that degree, broken down by state.

Clicking on a college in the state of your choice pulls up a chart showing if that degree is available through face-to-face classes or online.

This page also provides links to the actual school's Web site along with contact information.

Discover also has other wonderful tools such as a resume builder, sample cover letters, job search engines, and more.

If you would like access to this wonderful program, come to the Education Office for a free access coupon.

To submit questions to the Education Office, call 253-3855, stop by Building 411 Room 127 or e-mail jennifer.l.walker@usmc.mil.

North side mess hall opens new take-out line



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Sgt. Ben J. Andrews picks up a quick lunch at the North side mess hall's new "Touch-N-Go" take out line becoming the first customer April 15. The self-service line features a new design, extended hours, more choices and healthier foods. The service runs 5:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. every Monday through Friday. The switch from breakfast to lunch is at 10 a.m.



SGT. JOSH COX

Two 3- to 4-year-old youth baseball players eagerly wait for action on the field during the opening day of the season Saturday. More than 40 Japanese children from off-base were invited to participate in the season.

Youth baseball season kicks off

SGT. JOSH COX
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"Lets go Braves — lets go Braves!" The 2009 youth baseball season began here Saturday under sunny skies at the Penny Lake fields, and Braves fans weren't the only spectators cheering in the stands.

More than 270 children ages 3 to 15 adjusted their baseball caps and played catch shortly before a ceremony officially opened the highly anticipated season.

During the ceremony, players gathered as they were formally introduced together as teams for the first time.

A massive crowd of parents and spectators cheered as the players ran on the field.

Following a special Taiko drum performance and words from station commanding officer Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, the players again rushed the fields to begin action-packed games loaded with suspense and humor.

Cultural exchange was a hallmark of each team on the diamonds.

More than 40 Japanese children representing families from off-base will participate in the youth baseball season this year.

Marine Corps Community Services invites Japanese children and families to participate in many Youth Sports programs throughout the year by corresponding with



SGT. JOSH COX

Yankee's player Steven Miller runs home during the a 3- to 4-year-old youth baseball game at the Penny Lake fields here Saturday.

Iwakuni City organizations.

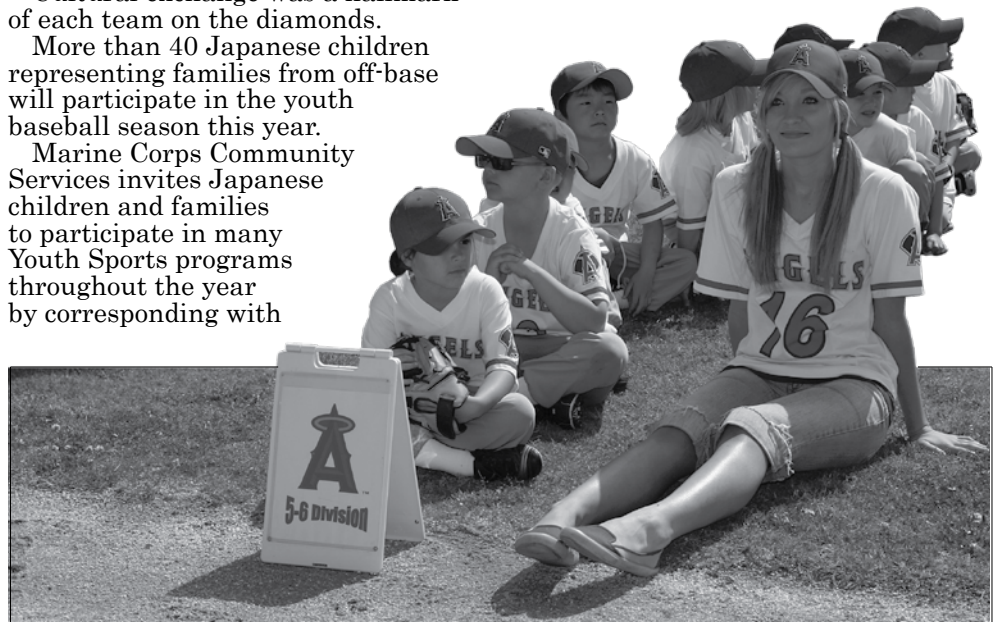
Naomi Higashi, a cultural adaptation specialist with MCCS Youth Sports, said the cultural exchange is a key part of the season.

"I think it is important because we actually have little chance to know each other," said Higashi, an Iwakuni native. "I myself hardly had opportunities to get to know about Americans or their culture."

A language barrier often exists on the field, but the players, coaches and parents adapt by learning as much as possible about each other.

"Some of the Japanese children start learning English," Higashi explained. "Their mothers say that the children start learning English because they want to talk with dedicated and generous coaches and teammates. I've seen American children trying to use Japanese phrases they learned at school when they speak to Japanese."

That's really good for both of our countries because they are the bearers of the future."



SGT. JOSH COX

(Above) Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer Col. Michael A. O'Halloran introduces William Eagmin before the day's first pitch is launched to the youth baseball player by Candice O'Halloran Saturday. (Bottom right) The 5- to 6-year-old Angels youth baseball team takes a seat after being formally introduced during opening ceremonies here Saturday.

  **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)