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SPORTS

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 19, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Applying for Post 9/11 GI Bill

PFC. AARON HOSTUTLER
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting applications for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

According to the VA Web site, www.gibill.va.gov, the bill comes into effect Aug. 1.

Service members eligible for the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the bill. Additionally, they must have served a total of at least 90 days of active duty service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or have been discharged after 30 days because of a service related disability.

Benefits depend on the amount of time served after Sept. 11, 2001, according to the site. A service member must have served at least 36 months to receive maximum benefits.

In comparison to the old G.I. Bill, the new bill offers service members additional benefits, which includes an increased time frame in which to use benefits. Post 9/11 GI Bill users have up to 15 years after ending active service, instead of the 10 years stipulated in the previous bill. Also, service members under the new GI Bill can get tuition matching that of the maximum in-state tuition and fees.

Depending on the school's location, service members may also be eligible to receive a monthly housing allowance equal to that of the Basic Allowance for Housing of an E-5 with dependents.

In addition, service members will be able to share the benefits with their families for the first time. Dependents will be eligible to use the Post 9/11 GI Bill if their sponsor already served at least six years as active duty and commits to serve at least an additional four.

Service members with approved retirement dates between Aug. 1 of this year and July 1, 2010, will be able to transfer their benefits without having to serve any additional time. Other service members retiring between Aug. 1 of this year and Aug 1, 2012 who are eligible to serve an additional year will be able to pass the benefits to their family members.

Spouses may use the benefits immediately or up to 15 years after the service member has separated, and children may use it after the service member has served 10 years.

For more information or to apply for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, visit www.gibill.va.gov.



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. RAUFMANN

Japanese officials and military police pose for a group photo after a tour led by the Provost Marshal's Office here May 13. The annual tour is held to encourage the continuity of cooperation between station law enforcement and the local Japanese police forces.

PMO maintains alliance with local police

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station military police welcomed senior staff and leaders of local Japanese police to visit the Provost Marshal's Office here May 13.

Every year, new joins from the Iwakuni Police Department are given a brief orientation on the organization of PMO.

"To protect life and property of military and civilian personnel through dedicated and professional security and law enforcement services any time, anywhere," read Maj. Giuseppe Stavale, the Provost Marshal, as he went over the mission statement that the military police live by every day.

Stavale explained the station's command relationships, areas of responsibility and jurisdictions, and gave the Japanese police an idea of what PMO does on a day-to-day basis.

"Many of the Japanese police have never worked with U.S. forces before and are dealing with new things like the Status of Forces Agreement," said Stavale.

Building relationships and allowing the Japanese to get to know and trust American service members was the main focus of the tour.

"Having a good and strong relationship

means everything to the Japanese people," said Stavale.

The Japanese police toured PMO's services, operations, and headquarters.

They visited the pre-confinement facility, the criminal investigation division and the emergency control center.

PMO had a static display of weapons and gear prepared for the Japanese officials to view.


A demonstrator also gave a K-9 display to show the abilities the dogs have to track explosives and defend the local military police from aggressors.

After touring the building and watching a volunteer get mauled by the most aggressive dog that PMO trains, the Japanese police enjoyed a short air-conditioned bus ride for a window tour of the station.

After the Japanese police were familiarized with the base and with PMO, they enjoyed a meal together from a buffet at Club Iwakuni.

Members from both police departments socialized and got to know each other on a personal level.

"We are in an alliance and a partnership and it makes dealing with incidents run in a much more smooth and professional manner," said Stavale.



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Teach your children well’

LT. CMDR. ALLEN R. KUSS
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CHAPLAIN

This weekend Americans will commemorate Memorial Day in various ways. Here at MCAS Iwakuni, back in the United States and at American cemeteries around the world, many people will observe this holiday by visiting burial grounds and memorial monuments of our deceased service members. Volunteers often place an American flag on each gravesite, and many Americans use Memorial Day to honor other family members who have died.

In addition to national observances, many individual communities hold memorial observances for fallen soldiers who were from that town by having a ceremony in a church or town memorial park.

Memorial Day is an adult holiday. It is filled with adult things. It is about such high ideals as love and defense of one’s homeland. It includes the hardships endured and altruistic service of others often for people they do not know nor will ever know. It is a day that recalls the lives of those who served in battle and of those who served in untold and forgotten places.

This holiday requires an appreciation of time, an understanding of the human cost for defending our way of life, and a respect for those who died in our defense.

Memorial Day is a day to remember the hardships endured and the sacrifices made by our family members and fellow citizens so that we might enjoy our freedoms and rights as Americans. It is a day to tell the stories and teach others of the courage and steadfast determination that so many had in defense of democracy and love of country.

Memorial Day is a day to teach our children about what we value as a nation and the price we are willing to pay to live in our great land.

Plan ahead: Use these travel tips

SUBMITTED BY BONNIE LEWIS
FINANCIAL FITNESS COUNSELOR

Are you planning a trip this summer? I know many people are hoping to use the Patriot Express to go back to the states for vacation. Even if you are fortunate enough to utilize this resource, check out the following Web sites to save yourself money on your connecting flight, and/or entertainment while you are home.

Militaryfares.com has search engines to find the best military airfare, rental car, sightseeing and cruise deals. Also on this site are numerous military offers for all different types of items such as car discounts with GM to Disney Armed Forces Discounts. I was also impressed to see a link for the Military Spouse Resource Center Web site MilSpouse.org, lots of useful information for military spouses.

Kayak.com searches hundreds of online travel agencies after you plug in your destination and dates of travel for the least expensive air, rental car, hotel and cruise prices.

Travelocity.com specializes in packages that can save you big bucks when you book your flight, car and hotel accommodations together.

Last-MinuteTravel.com offers deals on departures ranging from three weeks from the time of the search to three hours.

TravelZoo.com sends a “Top 20” e-newsletter listing the week’s best deals.

Expedia.com earns you reward points that are good for air travel at any time (no frustrating blackout dates).

Travel-ticker.com boasts savings such as AAA-rated four diamond hotel rooms from \$49.

BreezeNet.com compares car rental prices from Hertz, Avis, Dollar, Thrifty, Payless as well as local low-fee dealers at your destination.

Farecompare.com sends e-mail alerts a few hours before price reductions are loaded onto the airlines’ reservations systems. Choose when you want to be notified for example, if a fare goes below a certain amount. The site also has pop-up charts showing you when travel is cheapest on a specific route.

Sidestep.com Search for travel deals including airline tickets, car rental services, and hotels. SideStep features a toolbar that compares prices with other online booking agencies.

Last but not least remember to time your trip to save yourself some money:

- The least expensive flights are on off-peak days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.
- Airlines’ sales usually start on Monday and end by Thursday.
- The first flights on Saturday morning may be the cheapest.
- The costliest takeoffs tend to be Sunday afternoon (when leisure travelers fly home) and Monday morning (when business travelers head back to the office).

History and Heritage

The 11th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Maj. Gen. William P. Biddle assigns 1st Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham to “duty in connection with aviation.” Cunningham reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Md on May 22, 1912, and Marine aviation had its official beginning. Later, Cunningham would become the first director of Marine Corps aviation.



Iwakuni Hunting Club invites American hunters to join ranks

LANCE CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members and station residents here can try out the cross-cultural experience of hunting in Japan by joining the Iwakuni Hunting Club.

The station game warden, Michael K. Gingles, is constantly striving to increase the club’s American membership and can assist potential hunters in obtaining their Japanese hunting license.

Obtaining a hunting license in Japan is slightly more complicated than in the states, said Gingles. There are certain rules and regulations that one must first take into consideration.

First of all, hunters must be at least 21 years old and live either in town or in family housing here, according to Marine Corps Air Station Order 5500.4E. Unaccompanied service members living in the barracks cannot participate since they are not

authorized to store firearms in their rooms.

“Japanese gun laws stipulate that all licensed hunters must keep their firearms in special gun lockers in their private homes,” said Gingles. “Since those living in the barracks cannot store their weapons in there rooms, they really don’t have an option.”

For those eligible to obtain a hunting license, the next step in the licensing process involves taking four classes at the Iwakuni Forestry Office. The classes cover Japanese gun laws, hunting laws, game identification, and gun skills and safety.

The licensing classes cost between 60,000 and 70,000 yen, and hunters must pay an annual insurance fee of 29,000 yen.

“The whole licensing process takes about two months,” said Gingles. “Hunters must also pass a gun license exam, a physical, gun handling, game identification, forestry and range skills test.”

For the range skills test, hunters must hit three out of 25 clay pigeons.

Upon completing the licensing process, hunters can enjoy participating in hunts with Gingles and the Iwakuni Hunting Association for boar, deer, pheasants, crows and monkeys.

The hunting season for boar and deer spans from Nov. 1 to March 15.

Pheasant season is from Nov. 15 to Feb. 15.

Crows and monkeys are hunted during special sanctioned hunts throughout the year.

“Being part of the Iwakuni Hunting Association is a great way of building long lasting friendships with fellow Japanese hunters,” said Gingles. “If you’re here on a three-year tour, it’s definitely worth looking into.”

For more information on obtaining a Japanese hunting license or joining the Iwakuni Hunting Association, Gingles can be contacted at 253-5999 or at michael.gingles@usmc.mil.

Food safety: How to protect yourself from foodborne illnesses

CHRIS YONEDA
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SPECIALIST

Foodborne Illness Peaks in Summer - Why?

Year after year, we hear and read the same advice: Handle food carefully in the summer because foodborne illness — “food poisoning” — is more prevalent in warmer weather. Do foodborne illnesses increase during the summer months? If so, why?

Food-borne illnesses do increase during the summer. First, there are the natural causes. Bacteria are present throughout the environment in soil, air, water, and in the bodies of people and animals. These microorganisms grow faster in the warm summer months. Most foodborne bacteria grow fastest at temperatures from 90 to 110 °F. Bacteria also need moisture to flourish, and summer weather is often hot and humid. In the right circumstances, harmful bacteria can quickly multiply to large numbers. When this happens, someone eating the food can get sick.

Second, there are the “people” causes for the upswing in summertime foodborne illnesses. Outside activities increase. More people are cooking outside at picnics, barbecues, and on camping trips. The safety controls that a kitchen provides — thermostat-controlled cooking, refrigeration, and washing facilities — are usually not available.

Fortunately, people seldom get sick from contaminated food because most people have a healthy immune system that protects them not only from harmful bacteria on food, but from other harmful organisms in the environment. At the same time, FSIS, other government agencies, and food producers go to great lengths to keep food safe. And, of course, consumers can protect themselves at home with proper refrigeration and thorough cooking of perishable food.

The following steps can be taken to prevent foodborne illness, especially in the summertime.

Clean: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often.

Unwashed hands are a prime cause of foodborne illness.

- Wash your hands with warm, soapy water before handling food and after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and handling pets.
- When eating away from home, find out if there’s a source of potable (safe drinking) water. If not, bring water for preparation and cleaning.
- Or pack clean, wet, disposable washcloths or moist towelettes and paper towels for cleaning hands and surfaces.

Separate: Don’t Cross-Contaminate.

Cross-contamination during preparation, grilling, and serving food is a prime cause of foodborne illness.

- When packing the cooler chest for an outing, wrap raw meats securely;

avoid raw meat juices from coming in contact with ready-to-eat food.

- Wash plates, utensils, and cutting boards that held the raw meat or poultry before using again for cooked food.

Cook: Cook to Proper Temperatures.

Food safety experts agree that food is safely cooked when it is heated for a long enough time and at a high enough temperature to kill harmful bacteria that cause foodborne illness.

- Take your thermometer along. Meat and poultry cooked on a grill often browns very fast on the outside, so be sure that meats are cooked thoroughly. Check them with a food thermometer.
- Cook beef, veal, and lamb steaks, roasts, and chops to a safe minimum internal temperature of 145 °F. Cook steaks and roasts that have been tenderized, boned, rolled, etc., to an internal temperature of 160 °F.
- Cook all cuts of pork to an internal temperature of 160 °F.
- Cook ground beef, veal and lamb an internal temperature of 160 °F.
- All poultry should reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 °F throughout the product.
- Cook meat and poultry completely at the picnic site. Partial cooking of food ahead of time allows bacteria to survive and multiply to the point that subsequent cooking cannot destroy them.

Chill: Refrigerate Promptly.

Holding food at an unsafe temperature is a prime cause of foodborne illness. Keep cold food cold!

- Cold perishable food like luncheon meats, cooked meats, chicken, and potato or pasta salads should be kept in an insulated cooler packed with several inches of ice, ice packs, or containers of frozen water.
- Pack canned beverages in one cooler and perishable food in another cooler because the beverage cooler will probably be opened frequently.
- Keep the cooler in the coolest part of the car, and place in the shade or shelter, out of the sun, whenever possible.
- Preserve the cold temperature of the cooler by replenishing the ice as soon as it starts melting.
- If a cooler chest is not an option, consider taking fruits, vegetables, hard cheeses, canned or dried meats, dried cereal, bread, peanut butter, crackers, and a bottle of refreshing beverage.
- If you don’t plan to eat take-out food within 2 hours of purchase, plan ahead and chill the food in your refrigerator before packing for your outing.

Leftovers?

Food left out of refrigeration for more than 2 hours may not be safe to eat. Above 90 °F, food should not be left out over 1 hour. Play it safe; put leftover perishables back on ice once you finish eating so they do not spoil or become unsafe to eat.

If you have any doubts, throw it out.

New Parent Support: Program offers a wide range of support services



Rafiah MeeKins, a home visitor for the New Parent Support Program, dresses a soon-to-be daddy in the empathy belly during a Baby Boot Camp class Friday. Baby Boot Camp is an all-day workshop on the basics of newborn care.

LANCE CPL. KRISTIN COTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Expecting your first child, interested in infant massage and baby sign language, or need new ideas for dealing with your toddler's temper tantrums?

The New Parent Support Program here offers support services such as prenatal and postpartum support, parenting classes, home visitations and counseling services for military families with children from birth through 5 years of age.

"The purpose of the program is to provide support, not only for new parents, give plenty of information and offer counseling services," said Rafiah MeeKins, a home visitor for the New Parent Support Program.

The program offers a wide range of classes, including a childbirth education series, parenting and safety classes, and meetings for parents and children to socialize.

"Our play mornings are the most utilized of all the classes and services we offer," said MeeKins.

"There are crafts and songs, and it's very interactive. Sometimes we get up to 50 children participating."

Play mornings are held every Tuesday 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the community room of Building 656. A copy of the child's immunization record is required for participation.

Another popular class is the childbirth education series. It is a three-class series that covers

stages of labor, comfort measures, labor positions, breathing and relaxing techniques, birth plans and much more.

"My wife knew a lot of the information from the first class already from reading What to Expect When Expecting and browsing the Internet, but the information on labor experience isn't always something you can read about and will be very helpful for us," said Staff Sgt. Michael K. Kropiewnicki, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge at Combat Camera here who is expecting his first child.

New Parent Support Program personnel are qualified and experienced to fulfill all family needs and offer a comfortable environment for anyone needing assistance.

"All employees must have a bachelor's degree in nursing and be certified," said MeeKins.

"They must also have some history in maternal healthcare, have counseling experience and plenty of interaction with children."

The New Parent Support Program office is open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Monday through Friday and is located on the second floor of Building 411.

However, personnel are on call 24 hours a day to provide assistance, education and support to military families.

"We are like aunties. We're here to help out whenever we can," said MeeKins.

For more information or to sign up for an upcoming class, call the New Parent Support Program at 253-5553.

CORPORALS COURSE



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. RAUFMANN

Students and instructors of the current Corporal's Course pose for a group photo after a day of training. The course is 21 days long and consists of classes on leadership principles, mentoring skills, drill, and a vigorous physical schedule. The class graduates May 29.

Bringing power back to NCOs, training tomorrow's leaders

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"Left, right, left, right ... Column left, March!"

The sound of drill commands carried throughout the parade field on a Friday afternoon as noncommissioned officers aspiring to become better leaders practiced their drill cards and sword manual.

On training day eight, the young leaders had just begun their intense three-week Corporals Course.

The course curriculum varies from learning how to drill a platoon and forming for physical fitness to classes on leadership skills and principles and general military information.

"The course is bringing power back to the NCO," said Staff Sgt. Tony S. Kimmanee, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Corporals Course. "This course allows them to know what is expected out of them as a corporal, an NCO, and a leader of Marines."

New leaders are also given mentoring skills and are taught how to give technical military instruction.

"For many of these Marines, they have never had to teach a formal class to their junior Marines," said Kimmanee.

"The classes they receive give

them the confidence in speaking that they need," he added.

Corporals Course not only focuses on making Marines into better leaders here in Iwakuni but also emphasizes combat readiness.

Marines are given instruction on warfighting techniques and are tested with practical application.

These leaders in training also have a vigorous physical fitness schedule to keep up with.

"P.T. [physical training] is always a break off," said Cpl. Clint Wright, a student in Corporals Course.

"The other day we did the obstacle course seven or eight times."

It's not your normal, three-mile run, maintenance P.T., said Kimmanee. The P.T. varies but always focuses on teamwork.

"We do everything together as a team," said Wright. "We never leave anyone behind, and we finish everything together."

The course doesn't end with drill, classes and P.T., Wright added. "We have a book report due and we still have to memorize the NCO creed," he said.

On May 29 the intense course will come to an end and the newly trained NCOs will be put to the real test as they go back to their work sections to prove they have become better leaders with the newfound knowledge gained over the past few weeks.



PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Corporals Course students practice drill and sword manual. The Marines usually drill for about two hours a day.

Kidnapping mystery fun way to learn

Isabel Lucero-Boley uses a reference book to complete a task and solve a clue during the Anyone's Guess Mystery Program at the library here Monday. The Anyone's Guess Mystery Program is a library program designed to familiarize young adults with different resources available in the library, such as almanacs, encyclopedias, atlases, dictionaries, books and the Internet. The participants acted as law enforcement officials to solve clues in order to find the location of two kidnapped children and rescue them. They then had to solve additional clues in order to fact check statements by the suspects and identify the kidnapper. Each participant was awarded points for getting the correct answers and bonus points were given for the first person who completed the tasks. After solving the mystery, the person with the most points was given a prize and all participants enjoyed pizza and refreshments. The library plans on varying the theme and making it a monthly program. For more information, call the library at 253-3078.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

THREE PEAKS PARK

MALS-12 Marines help clean up one of Japan's natural beauties

COMPILED BY
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

An hour away from here at a park, three mountains covered in foliage and greenery rise high above the tree lines called Three Peaks.

Japanese locals and station residents often visit the park to relax and enjoy the quiet sounds of wildlife, or challenge themselves with the arduous climb to the top of the peaks and afterward to take in the scenic view from the top.

According to the caretaker of the park, many people consider it a place to find peace and solitude among nature.

Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 have been visiting the park for the past few months to help maintain Three Peaks' grounds, while enjoying the area.

Marines armed with mops, brushes and trash bags have been coming to the park for the past three to four months to paint over the graffiti left on the walls by previous visitors.

Cpl. Raymond Vanwey, the assistant deputy family readiness officer with MALS-12, said the caretaker of the park appreciated the positive work that the Marines have been doing.

Marines who aided in the cleanup of Three Peaks stressed the importance of maintaining relationships between Marines and Japanese locals.

"Making good relationships with the people out in town is important," said Lance Cpl. Neil Surati, an aviation

ordnance man with MALS-12. "We are guests here like if we were coming to somebody's house. It's good to be polite, respectful and courteous to other people in how they do things around here."

Marines arriving at the park May 14 saw the previous months' labors bore fruit as there was little trash to pick up.

After a day of cleaning, MALS-12 Marines began the strenuous hour hike to the top of the peaks.

A few Marines stumbled and fell without hurting themselves on rocks and struggled to keep a good footing on the rocky terrain.

The Marines' labored breathing increased as smooth trails gave way to rocky paths and steep inclines covered in shade by the surrounding trees.

Laughing through strenuous gasps and with sweat streaming down their faces, Marines made their way to the top of the peaks and were able to take in the scenic mountainous view before them.

After resting a bit and enjoying the view of the village below, Marines began making their way down the mountain to return back to the station.

On the bus ride back, Marines began making plans to return back to the park.

"It was fun," said Sgt. Dennis Laferty, the section 4 logistic chief with MALS-12. "The Marines got to see there was more to Japan than just living on the base."



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 hike through a strenuous 1-hour hike to reach the top of Three Peaks Park May 14. Some Marines stumbled and fell without hurting themselves as they slipped on rocks and struggled to keep a good footing on the rocky terrain. Some Marines even used the aide of staffs to make their way up to the top.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 gather at the top of Three Peaks Park May 14. It took the Marines a little over an hour to hike back down Three Peaks' rocky trails.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 struggle on a 1-hour hike to the top of the Three Peaks May 14. After Marines saw their past labors bore fruit and there was no trash to pick up, they decided to climb up the side of the mountain.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 have been visiting Three Peaks for the past three to four months to clean up the park and make up for what other Marines did last year. Nearly 18 months ago while Marines camped out at the park, they trashed and vandalized an area of the park, tarnishing the locals' view on Marines.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SINJAR, Iraq – 1st Lt. Blaine Barby, a platoon commander with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, talks with Kurdish soldiers during a visit to Rafiyah April 25. Barby says that his platoon tries to get to know the people living in the areas where they conduct most of their operations.

Marine and Iraqi forces work to keep northern Iraq safe

CPL. ALAN ADDISON
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 8
IRAQ

Outside of conducting partnered counter-insurgency operations, the Marines of 3rd LAR also do a great deal of work with the inhabitants of the Iraqi villages.

“We go into the cities and towns just to meet with the leaders and elders,” said Sgt. Isaias Hernandez, a squad leader with Co. C. “We

As far as the eye can see, thick clouds of dust encompass the landscape as light armored vehicles quickly make their way across the barren desert. Dust poured in through the openings of the vehicles as they slowly came to a stop in front of an unmarked compound. A few Marines along with an interpreter approach the entrance and are welcomed by Iraqi police personnel.

Marines from Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, conducted operations with Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi locals to detect and dispose of improvised explosive devices throughout Nofali and Rafiyah, Iraq, April 24-25, 2009.

“We’ve been out in these areas many times before,” said 1st Lt. Blaine Barby, a Co. C platoon commander. “When we come out here, we want to disrupt the enemy. We normally conduct basic counter-insurgency operations. This time we came out in response to possible IED’s in the area, and an IED detonation that killed two civilians.”

The Marines’ assistance does not end at just securing the area and identifying an object as an IED.

“Once we identify an object as an IED, we secure the area ensuring no one is close to the object; then we call our explosive ordnance disposal team to come out and dispose of the unexploded munitions,” Barby said.



SINJAR, Iraq – 1st Lt. Blaine Barby, a platoon commander with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, talks to Iraqi police during a visit to Nofali. During visits such as this 3rd LAR Marines can better prepare themselves for any problems that arise with their area of responsibility.

ask them if they have any infrastructure problems, security problems, or any issues with illegal smuggling. These types of missions also help us learn our area of operation.”

Once the Marines identify problems within villages, they then work with the Iraqi Army and Police to get the assistance the people need. These efforts to create relationships

with the Iraqi people is another means by which the Marines, working in concert with local security forces, seek to disrupt insurgent and criminal activity in this portion of the Ninewa province.

“Every time we come out and talk to the people, it reinforces that we’re working with the Iraqi Police,” said Barby. “This is a big area and we need all the help we can get, so if we can build the people’s confidence in us it will be very helpful to us in the long run.”

“These engagements show the people that we can get along and work with them,” Hernandez commented. “It also helps to build a better working environment for us. These operations are a privilege for us; if we go around upsetting the people we will lose that privilege and be unwelcome in these areas.”

Building relationships with the Iraqi Army and police is also beneficial to 3rd LAR’s mission.

“Going from place to place makes us familiar among the Iraqi Army and Police,” Barby stated. “We need to build upon that, so that if there’s a problem we can contact them and use their knowledge of the area to help better complete our mission.”

As the afternoon sun’s heat intensified, the Marines once again loaded into their vehicles and drove across the desert. Throughout the next few days the Marines of 3rd LAR continued their routine of meeting with local Iraqis in order to build better relationships between U.S. troops and the Iraqi people, while continuing to support the ISF in the security of the area.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OHA Survey In Progress
The annual Overseas Housing Allowance Utility/Recurring Maintenance Survey for Japan is being conducted through June 3. Based on the results and participation, the utility allowance for Japan will be updated. Service members currently in private leases under the OHA program should participate. To access the survey, visit <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/oha/survey/utility.html>. This is the only survey available to Japan-based participants and is online only. Call 253-3243 for more information.

Ironworks Co-op Program Openings
There are now openings with the Ironworks Co-op Program. This program is open to parents with children 5 and under. We meet 9:15 – 11:15 a.m.

every Mon., Wed., Fri.
For more information, call 253-2836 or e-mail heather_long@yahoo.com.

H1N1 Flu Virus Prevention Tips
There is no evidence at this time the H1N1 flu is circulating in the area. We encourage everyone to engage in these healthy prevention practices:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; if a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- Put used tissues in a waste basket.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing, and wash with soap and water, or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are

sick. If you are sick, keep distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.

MAG-12 Fraud, Waste and Abuse Information
The new Fraud, Waste, and Abuse officer for all MAG-12 units is Capt. Augusto D. Ramirez. Please report any instances of FWA to the MAG-12 FWA hotline number, 253-6123. For immediate action, call 090-6861-7127.

TAMP and FMEP Survey
The Transition Assistance Management Program and Family Member Employment Program will be conducting a survey until Friday. Your feedback will help us improve the services we provide to military members and their families. Visit www.websrg.com/MCHQ/.

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. You can register in person or by going to MyUMUC at my.umuc.edu. 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 or visit www.asia.umuc.edu.

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

CTC Term V Classes
Central Texas College registration for classes is May 18 - May 29 and classes run from June 1 - July 26. Distance learning and traditional classes are available. For more information, contact your local CTC field representative at 253-3288 or e-mail iwakuni.jpnpfec@ctcd.edu.

Red Cross CPR Courses
A CPR professional rescuer course will be held 9 a.m. Saturday. For more information, call the American Red Cross at 253-4525.

NMCRS Office Changing
The local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is changing its office to provide better service for the community. NMCRS will be open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. every Monday – Friday. A grand re-opening will be held to celebrate its new status as a full service office 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. June 1. Come by and see what’s new and available at your

local NMCRS office.

NMCRS Job Opportunities
Every day sailors, Marines and their families come to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in emergencies. Be the person who lets them know they’ve come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers guide clients through the initial intake process. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

New Taijutsu Group
A new taijutsu group is in the works here in Iwakuni; any Takamatsuden is OK. This will not be an official dojo, simply a place to learn, share and maintain proficiency. For further information, e-mail iwakuni.taijutsu@gmail.com

UMUC Seminar
The University of Maryland University College is hosting a seminar May 28 from 12 to 1 p.m. at Building 411. Wandering Scholar: Adventures in India! will feature guest speaker Dr. Nick Zoa. Refreshments and pizza will be available. Call 253-3392 for more information.

Free Filipino Movie Showing
The Filipino-American society here will be hosting a free showing of “Tenement 2” at the Sakura Theater here May 28. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film begins at 7 p.m.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, May 22, 2009
7 p.m. Angels and Demons (PG-13) *Premier*
10 p.m. The Haunting in Connecticut (PG-13) *Premier*

Saturday, May 23, 2009
1 p.m. Dragonball Evolution (PG) *Premier*
4 p.m. Angels and Demons (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Haunting in Connecticut (PG-13)
10 p.m. Star Trek (PG-13)

Sunday, May 24, 2009
1 p.m. Dragonball Evolution (PG)
4 p.m. Star Trek (PG-13)
7 p.m. Angels and Demons

Monday, May 25, 2009
1 p.m. Dragonball Evolution (PG)
4 p.m. Fast and Furious 4 (PG-13)
7 p.m. Star Trek (PG-13)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009
7 p.m. In case of inclement weather, Seether will perform at the Sakura theater.

Wednesday, May 27, 2009
7 p.m. Once Upon a Time in Japan: Part 1 (R) *Free Admission*

Thursday, May 28, 2009
7 p.m. Fil-Am presents Tenement 2

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

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Bean with bacon soup, shrimp gumbo soup, Caribbean flounder, country style steak, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, hush puppies, broccoli Combo, wax beans, dinner rolls, German style hamwich, cannonball sandwich, cheesy bacon burger, potato salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake, butter cream frosting, banana cream pudding

Tuesday

Tomato soup, vegetable soup, lasagna, roast pork, au gratin potatoes, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, toasted garlic bread, cream gravy, buffalo chicken, corn dogs, steak and cheese submarine, country style tomato salads, Mexican coleslaw, standard salad bar, cherry pie, Boston cream pie, oatmeal raisin cookie

Wednesday

French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, baked tuna noodles, breaded pork chop Creole, garlic roasted potatoes, carrots (frozen), mix vegetables (steamed), dinner rolls, mushroom gravy, cabbage, apple, and celery, three bean salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie, butter cream frosting, devil's food cake

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, grilled tuna and cheese sandwich, taco burger, hot Italian sausage sandwich, macaroni Salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake, whipped topping, banana cream pie

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, cheese quesadillas, submarine sandwich, toasted bacon lettuce and tomatoes, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, coconut raisin drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, butter cream frosting, chocolate cream pie

Automobiles

Toyota Lite Ace
JCI until April 2011. Road tax & recycle fee paid, cold front and rear A/C, power windows and locks, ultra violet reducing glass tint, Kenwood CD Player, seats seven, great mileage, diesel engine, snow chains for tires included. \$2,500 OBO. For more information, call 253-2115/6984 (work) or 080-6605-9917 (cell).

1998 Toyota NOAH
JCI until September 2009. Seats eight. In good condition. Just replaced battery and tires. Asking \$1000. For more information, call 09016810866 (cell).

2004 Honda Shadow 750cc
Comes with two full-face helmets, new cover, leather saddlebags, full wind screen, English owners manual. \$3,500, but will negotiate in good faith. For more information, call 253-3337 (work) or 99-53-5470 (home off-base).

1998 Toyota Estima
JCI until September 2009, A/C, AM/FM/CD/cassette, GPS. \$1,500. For more information, call 253-2323 (home) or 080-4085-2008 (cell).

1995 Honda Civic
JCI until March 2011, good A/C and heat, CD player, power windows, good on gas, well maintained. \$2,000 OBO. Will be ready June 19. For more information, call 253-2218

2-for-1 Car Sale
1996 BMW 525i & 1990 Toyota Celsior \$4500 OBO for both. BMW: JCI good until January 2011 with 140000 kilometers. 2009 road taxes paid. Fully loaded with heated leather seats, AM/FM cassette/6 Pack CD, sunroof and power windows and seats. Toyota: JCI good until July 2009 with 100,000 kilometers. 2009 road taxes paid. Fully loaded with AM/FM cassette/ 6-Pack CD and power windows and seats. One vehicle is available immediately and the other is available the third week of June. Willing to sell separately. Call 090-3437-3631.

Daihatsu Move
JCI good until October 30, 2010. Asking \$2200. Vehicle is available June 1. Road taxes paid during April 2009. Black color and turbo equipped. Call 080-3319-5662.

Honda Odyssey
JCI good until January 2011. Asking \$2500. Vehicle is available June 1. Road taxes paid during April 2009. Maroon color: dependable and cheap to drive. Call 080-3319-5662.

1995 Honda Civic
JCI good until August 2010, runs great, automatic, low mileage. Moving in June need to sell. \$500.00. For more information, call 253-2350 or send an e-mail to forrestg98@yahoo.com.

Two-for-one Deal
Mitsubishi Chariot: JCI good until April 2010. Seats six. 2009 road taxes paid. Power lock, windows and doors. Includes navigation system with dual AC control, CD and cassette player. **Mitsubishi Mirage:** JCI good until December 2010. Seats five. 2009 road taxes paid. Fully loaded with AC, power locks, windows and doors. Both vehicles are available in June. Asking \$5000 OBO. For more information, call 253-2311 (Home) or 080-3465-3895 (Cell)

1995 Mitsubishi Delica 4 X 4
JCI good until December 2009. Van includes AM/FM, CD, Navigation system, DVD player, 4X4, air condition. Seats seven. The price is \$3,500. Call 253-2639 for more information.

1997 Toyota Starlet
JCI good until Aug. 17, 2010. Great gas mile-age: \$20 to fill up will last a month. \$75 road tax paid. Four-door dark blue sedan includes working AC, heater and powered window. Call 253-2790 or 090-6861-5497

Miscellaneous

Home Furnishings
Antique Chinese Square Tall-Table with two arm and two side chairs - paid \$1,400. A three cushion sofa with rolled arms - \$200. Two rocker-recliners, one maroon, one green - \$100 each.
One Broyhill pine china cabinet - \$150.
One small antique curio cabinet, dark wood, four shelves - \$150.
One Broyhill mirrored vanity with display shelves on each side, nine drawers - \$100. All prices are negotiable in good faith. For more information, call 253-3337 (work) or 99-53-5470 (home off-base).

57" TV Set
57" Toshiba rear screen projection with stereo sound, entertainment center with glass doors and lights, and Sony 400-disc DVD player. Sold as set, \$900. For more information, call 253-2122 or 080-1385-7214.

Job Announcements

NMCRS Job Opportunities
Asking for help is hard Everyday sailor, Marines and their families come to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in emergencies. Be that friendly person who lets them know they've come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. Use your winning smile and good people skills to help our clients. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311

MCCS Student Summer Hire Program
Today is the last day applications will be accepted at the NAF Human Resources office, located on the 2nd floor of the Cross-roads. The program is offering 17 positions for teens, ages 14-17. New employee orientations will be held 9-11 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. June 12. Positions include temporary lodging facility laborers, retail sales associates and recreation attendants. Students may be required to go through the interviewing process. For more information, call 253-3030/5008.

Summer Reading Program

Build, draw, write, paint, sing, explore, and create! Everyone can be creative this summer at the station library's Summer Reading Program. Activities will include playing, dancing, singing, reading, writing and more! Registration begins June 23 at the front desk of the library. Stop in and pick up a flyer of summer events, All activities are free and open to children ages 5-12.



Strictly Business coach Christopher Rhodes makes contact with the ball during Mondays Intramural Summer Softball game against the Delinquents. Strictly Business beat the Delinquents 9-0 in six innings and improved its record to 1-1, while the Delinquents fell to 0-3.

Strictly Business dusts the Delinquents 9-0



Delinquents pitcher and Coach Bobby Shank steps into a pitch during Mondays Intramural Summer Softball game against Strictly Business. Shank pitched all six innings allowing nine runs and got two hits in the Delinquents loss to Strictly Business 9-0.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

As the second week of the 2009 Intramural Summer Softball Season swung into action at the main softball field here, the Delinquents found themselves on the business end of a 9-0 blowout by Strictly Business at Monday's game.

The Delinquents' loss to Strictly Business leaves them with a 0-3 record and lots of needed improvement.

On the other end, Strictly Business improved its season record to 1-1 and on the right path to a successful season.

Although this game ended early due to the mercy rule, it was still a nail-biter.

Coach Bobby Shank said, "We practiced a little harder and did better than normal, we didn't lose as bad this time."

The Delinquents may not have scored or gotten many hits, but they did make lots of contact with the ball which kept Strictly Business on its toes.

Strictly Business came into the game off a 23-20 loss to the Shamrocks last week and needed a big win to stay in the playoff hunt.

Before the game, Strictly Business coach Christopher Rhodes said, "After last week's

loss, we worked on fly balls and focused on base hits instead of going for the wall the whole time."

Strictly Business' new-found strategy appeared to pay off, allowing only one hit and extending its lead nearly every inning.

The Delinquents went three and out in the top of the first, but Strictly Business managed to score one run off a double by Joseph Galvan which brought Colin Aspenson in for a 1-0 lead.

"They had a really good pitcher. It was most of their defense," said Shank.

The second inning looked much like the first for the Delinquents, going out with no runs and only one man on base.

Strictly Business went on a hitting spree and ended the inning with three additional runs and a 4-0 lead.

It was clear that the Delinquents were not playing as well as they could have, ending the third inning again with no runs and going three and out.

The Delinquents held Strictly Business to no runs in the third, but in the fourth, they gave up another three and had their backs to the wall going into the fifth down by five.

Coach Shank led off the fifth with a double and waited for

someone to bring him home Next up was right center fielder Jonathan Ragin with a single of his own.

With two runners on base and second baseman Jenny Cartagena up, it looked as if the Delinquents were making a comeback; however, it was not so.

Cartagena grounded out to second which left Ragin caught in the middle and thrown out at first.

Center fielder Kevin Flynn's pop fly ended any hopes for the Delinquents comeback and retired the Delinquents to the bench.

Going into the bottom of the sixth it was still 5-0 with only one inning to go, but it seemed that Strictly Business wanted to end it there.

Strictly Business went on yet another hitting spree to score another three runs.

With the fourth heading in to home, the umpire called the game.

"This is the first of many Ws," Coach Rhodes said after the game.

Strictly Business takes on El Unit today at 8 p.m. at the main softball field.

First baseman Jason Keaty said, "A storm is coming and it's called Strictly Business. Watch out El Unit."



Until Every One Comes Home.®



FREE!

SEETHER



Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
Main Field - Parade Deck
Open to all base personnel
☎ 253-3727 or visit www.mccsiwakuni.com

