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FEATURE



IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 29, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Cpl. Morgan Yocum, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 J52 jet engine mechanic, passes off the AIRSpeed division time to reliably replenish Battle-axe to Sgt. Michael Uribe, a MALS-12 electronic counter measures technician here July 24. The Battle-axe represents outstanding TTR improvement by one of 42 maintenance work centers.

Battle-axe: Eviscerating time to reliably replenish

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition defines battle-axe as a broadax formerly used as a weapon of war.

Formerly ... pfft, how about now?

Work center 64C from the Avionics Division of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 captured the coveted MALS-12 AIRSpeed divisions' time to reliably replenish battle-axe from work center 41A in a ceremony here July 24.

The competition was stiff as 42 other work centers were vying for the medieval mandible of death.

Once the numbers were ran, 64C was the clear victor with a 60-percent improvement, nearly double the nearest runner-up, in their time to reliably replenish.

The 42 work centers making up the MALS-12 maintenance

SEE **AXE** ON PAGE 3

L.I.N.K.S not just for spouses anymore

SGT. ROBERT DURHAM
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

L.I.N.K.S. — It stands for lifestyle, insights, networking, knowledge and skills. If you are a spouse, you might want to add this to your ever increasing database of acronyms.

L.I.N.K.S. is a volunteer, team-

mentoring program for and by Marine spouses, with the catchphrase "bloom where you're planted." The class used to be for spouses only, but now anyone new to the Marine Corps community can benefit from it.

The course is designed to explain things such as Marine Corps history and terminology,

benefits and services, education and several other topics in an easy to absorb way.

The discussion group leaders of this class are all experienced Marine spouses, including a few wives who are Marines themselves. They know a thing or

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Bilateral training in Misawa kicks off



PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

An F/A-18 prepares for flight at the start of aviation training relocation conducted with Japanese forces July 25. The exercise is a week-long, bilateral exercise demonstrating joint capabilities and improving interoperability between the United States and Japan.

Iwakuni Marines take to skies for aviation training relocation

PFC. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Aviation training relocation at Misawa officially commenced here July 25 as F/A-18s with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 landed here.

The exercise is a week-long, joint bilateral exercise demonstrating joint capabilities, and improving interoperability between the United States and Japan.

To keep VMFA(AW)-533 in the air, Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 have come along to aid the squadron's efforts.

The exercise will provide VMFA(AW)-533 pilots the opportunity to conduct critical bilateral training, including tactical navigation training, air-combat training, dissimilar-air combat training, combined-arms training, interception training and interdiction training.

"We're just trying to get everyone more proficient with air-to-air training," said Capt. Michael Raiff, VMFA(AW)-533 director of safety and standardization.

Training relocation as part of the U.S. Realignment Plan is designed to improve the interoperability among the Japanese Self-

SEE **MISAWA** ON PAGE 3



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

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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Sending out an SOS to the world'

LT. CMDR. DENIS N. COX
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

Most folks know that dot, dot, dot, followed by a dash, dash, dash, and then three more dots spells out SOS in Morse code, which has long stood for the moniker Save Our Ship.

Since its inception, SOS has not only stood for save our ship but also has become the international symbol for distress or emergency.

When people say SOS, they are looking for someone to come and save them.

One lesson I've learned while in the Navy is the Navy, or any other naval vessel for that matter, never wants someone

to come and save the ship; they want the crew and passengers to be rescued.

The vessel is usually left adrift and the souls on board the ship are what are really important.

Growing up in the 1970s and 1980s, I used to love listening to a band called The Police when lead singer Sting would belt out lyrics to one of my favorite songs, "Message in a Bottle."

It's a story of a lonely man who sends out an SOS hoping someone comes and saves him from his loneliness.

He's full of hope, even after a year's wait, when he wakes up one morning and sees "a hundred-billion bottles washed upon the shore."

He realizes he's not alone because so many other people are, like him, in need of being saved or rescued.

Maybe you've sent out an SOS. You think you need to be rescued, have a situation fixed, or have someone turn your problem around.

What you're really asking for is not to have someone fix the problem but to fix the person.

If the person gets fixed, the problems will all fall nicely into place.

I know someone who can come and rescue you and respond to your SOS.

There are many people of faith on this base who can tell you who that person is.

Rest assured, God responds to every SOS in a personal way. But don't think he's coming to save the ship, he's coming to save the soul.

Young minds harness creativity



Station mothers help their children create their own "touch and feel" books as part of a project for the 2009 "Be Creative" Summer Reading Program at the library here July 21. After reading books together to start off their weekly 10 a.m. Tuesday meetings, event participants were given a number of supplies ranging from feathers to sand paper to add texture to their books. The library hosted a number of art and craft projects during their weekly meetings to encourage participating children to be more creative with their skills. Some of the past projects included making collages, paper instruments and masks. The closing ceremony for the program took place Tuesday at the Crossroads pavilion.



"Eat your 80s" – A live 1-hour

radio show that features the best 80s music. Noon to 1 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, on Power 1575.

TRR gets axed by AIRSpeed division

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division, all repair various parts of aircraft currently stationed here with Marine Aircraft Group 12.

"What that TRR really means to us ... we're able to provide our products more quickly, more reliably and we also help supply do their job," Chief Warrant Officer James McGeachy, AIRSpeed officer in charge, said. "It's very important as a long-reaching impact and it ultimately helps MAG-12 do the mission that we're all here to accomplish."

In the world of production, a faster repair means decreasing the bottom-line.

"We have a software application called the Buffer Management Tool and we use that to help us identify how fast we're repairing our gear," Sgt. Tchaikawsky E. Samuels, AIRSpeed analyst, said. "The faster we can get it out the better because the cheaper it is for us."

So, as Peter Gibbons might say, how does busting hump now benefit me at the end of the day? Well first, battle-axe!

"Marines are warriors, we're competitive in nature," Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Runne, AIRSpeed staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, said. "To see an axe and to have an axe within the division, representing the work center's achievement of individually driving down TRR to accomplish their goal, says a lot."

Second, saving money in the long run decreases workload in the future.

"If we can go ahead and reduce inventories, and reduce the amount of stuff we're buying and contracting, then it's less money we're spending trying to keep inventories high to maintain the old and aging gear," said Samuels. "That's more money we can put into new platforms."

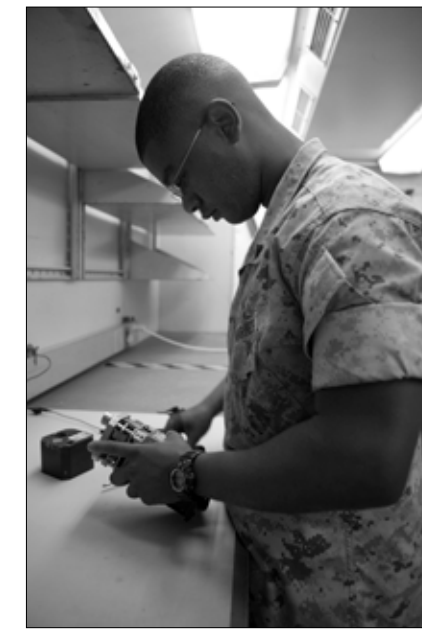
New gear means improved gear. "Because it's new, it's not going to break; it's going to be more reliable," said Samuels. "It's an ongoing process of saving money and modernizing."

The ongoing process of modernization is an initiative set forth by the Naval Aviation Enterprise to achieve cost-wise readiness. In past wars, the successful doctrine was to put up an iron curtain and have all the supplies needed behind the curtain, said Samuels.

As times change, so too must the approaches to fighting the modern war.

Fighting two wars and supporting operations in other parts of the globe makes putting all supplies in one basket more problematic, said Samuels.

Besides the long-term modernization goal to decrease the workload and better serve the fight, working harder can



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Cpl. Jonathan L. Armstrong, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 electronic counter-measures technician, repairs an azimuth indicator in the 64C work center here July 24. The 64C work center was able to improve their time to reliably replenish by 60-percent for the three-month period between April and June, allowing them to win the coveted AIRSpeed Battle-axe.

yield immediate relaxation benefits.

"Mainly it's having pride and wanting to fix parts to get the workload down," Sgt. Michael Uribe, an electronic counter-measures technician with 64C, said.

Having a lower workload allowed Uribe's work center to focus on something more challenging and exciting, perfectly grilling a hamburger during their downtime barbeques, he said. The 64C work center was fortunate to win because one of their work benches was down for some time, but the beauty of the TRR metric is the ability to track it over a period of months.

Even though the axe is on the line every month, the data used to determine the TRR of a particular work center is a mean of the previous three months.

Cheaters beware: to game this system is nearly impossible, and hard work, initially anyway, is critical for success.

Each work center repairs different parts. Some parts take one day to repair and others can take 50, but each shop is operating on its own TRR metric, so anyone can win.

Enter the battle-axe, a glorious symbol whose production mirrors the hard work necessary to win it.

The axe was produced using resources locally available to the AIRSpeed office, including Metal and Welds from the AirFrames Division and streamers made of tape, said Runne.

Alright, so this axe might not be an eviscerating death-dealer of old, but it's the perfect tool of destruction against TRR.



SGT. ROBERT DURHAM

L.I.N.K.S. class students participate in a team building exercise here to help them better understand fundamentals in communication July 24 at Yujo Hall here. LINKS focuses on educating those new to the Marine Corps lifestyle on the many programs and benefits available.

Spouses 'bloom where they're planted'

LINKS FROM PAGE 1

two about life in the Corps.

Tina Pham, L.I.N.K.S. trainer, says being married to a Marine presents a unique set of challenges that may be unfamiliar to non-military families.

A lot of people get here and are miserable because they don't know what's available to them. This class provides insight about things like what's available to them when they get off base, said Pham. Participants in the class receive real life tips and resources enabling them to help themselves.

Cpl. Clint Wright, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation operator, and his wife Bethany attended the two-day course together.

"The biggest thing I've learned is how easy it seems to obtain a degree in the Marine Corps. I know many Marines think it's hard, but that's not how I look at it. I mean, they make it sound so easy," said Cpl. Wright.

"Here they let you know they'll work with you. It's hard in a way because it's the Marine Corps, but after the class they make you want to get an education," said Bethany.

Near the conclusion of the class Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, and his wife Candice spoke to the class before Col. O'Halloran gave out graduation certificates.

"I agree with bloom where you're planted. You talked about it here in the context of family readiness. I'm here to tell you it works in your Marine Corps career. Just go where the Marine Corps tells you, make a difference and the rest will take care of itself," said Col. O'Halloran.

"Make the most of it here because it is what you make of it. It's two years of your whole life," said Candice O'Halloran.

Anyone interested in attending a L.I.N.K.S. class should call Marine Corps Family Team Building at 253-3754.

Aviation Training relocation kicks off at Misawa Air Base

MISAWA FROM PAGE 1

Defense Force and U.S. forces, while decreasing the effects of U.S. forces' training activities at various stations.

The exercise will focus on operational readiness and bilateral interoperability tactics, equipment and logistical support.

Marines will also train with Japanese forces in conflict response.

This bilateral training affords the Marine Corps and Japanese Air Self-Defense Force the opportunity to enhance operational coordination and improve capabilities as a bilateral force in the event of a contingency.

"It's a great chance for us to do training with a foreign country," said Raiff.

With shared information and technology, the JASDF and Marine Corps' capability to operate together for the defense of Japan and stability in the region improves exponentially. The Marines will also benefit from being able to practice the deployment of personnel and aircraft to other locations.

After the first exercise, Raiff said training with the JASDF was a great experience and they all learned a lot from the training. Training relocation demonstrates U.S. forces' commitment to peace and stability in the Pacific region. This type of training fosters strong relationships between U.S. and Japanese forces and increases capabilities of supporting commitments to the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

Book Review: 'With the Old Breed, At Peleliu and Okinawa' by Eugene B. Sledge

CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Many World War II memoirs have been the personal accounts of ground troops, vividly illustrating everything from tortuous stress to personal victories through words. Over the years, historians have used these accounts and other fragments of information to piece together what actually happened after entire battalions of Marines vanished into thick jungle with no means of communication, few means of survival, but every intention to obtain an objective.

Former Marine mortarman, Eugene B. "Sledgehammer" Sledge, paints an intimate and sometimes terrifying picture of what it was like fighting for his country as a Marine and not a monster in his book, "With the Old Breed, At Peleliu and Okinawa," published in 1981.

In his writing, Sledge mixes his unreserved, chaotic recollection with facts gathered throughout the years following the war. All the comfort and glamour from the big screen in World War II movies like, "Saving Private Ryan," "Windtalkers," and "Band of Brothers," wherein the audience can fall in love with the main characters is lost. Each defeat is felt fully in the text with its near-poetic elaboration.

Sledge writes on his first amphibious assault, "The men piled over the sides as fast as they could. I followed Snafu, climbed up, and planted both feet firmly on the left side so as to leap as far away from it as possible. At that instant a burst of machine-gun fire with white-hot tracers snapped through the air at eye level, almost grazing my face. I pulled my head back

like a turtle, lost my balance, and fell awkwardly forward down onto the sand in a tangle of ammo bag, pack, helmet, carbine, gas mask, cartridge belt, and flopping canteens. 'Get off the beach! Get off the beach!' raced through my mind."

This book is not recommended for weak stomachs, though just like any Marine, Sledge finds time to introduce humorous and ironic moments many would have forgotten about amid the fog of war, including annoyed working parties and a new life at sea.

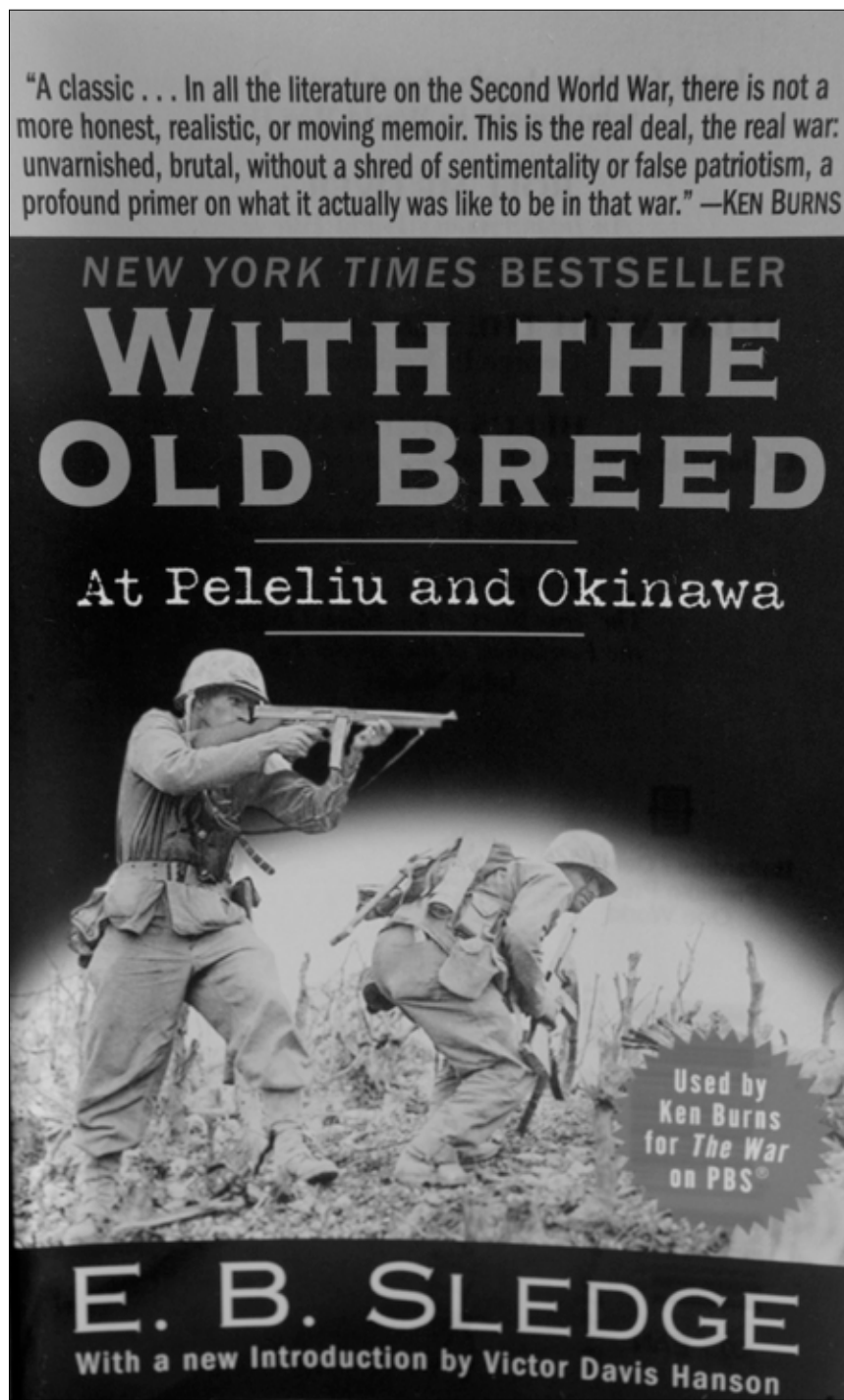
Marine readers might find the frustrations Sledge describes of being a junior Marine in the 1940s are very similar to the frustrations he would face in the Marine Corps today.

In the first chapter, Sledge recalls his time at college with plans to become an officer, his fears of sitting out for the duration of the war while fellow Americans went in his stead. In an act of patriotism, he and a few of his colleagues decided instead to forgo their future commissions and enlist right away, pushing them all straight to the fight.

It is episodes like these that reveal the America-loving character with whom readers can relate. For Marines especially, it is a humbling experience to briefly walk in his "boondockers."

Sledge served in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1946 and left with the rank of corporal. After he passed away March 3, 2001, he was buried in the Pine Crest Cemetery in Mobile, Ala.

This 344-page, must-read anecdote, part of the Marine Corps' Professional Reading Program, is available both at the station library and the Crossroads Mall bookstore.



"... a burst of machine-gun fire with white-hot tracers snapped through the air at eye level, almost grazing my face. I pulled my head back like a turtle, lost my balance, and fell awkwardly forward down onto the sand in a tangle of ammo bag, pack, helmet, carbine, gas mask, cartridge belt, and flopping canteens. 'Get off the beach! Get off the beach!' raced through my mind."

— An excerpt from
Sledge's initial assault on
Peleliu

PUSHING — TIN — Maintenance Marines keep jets rolling

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The July 13 arrival of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 brought with it about 10 F/A-18 aircraft and approximately 200 service members.

VMFA(AW)-533's arrival also brought an honored and fierce reputation that would not have been possible without the maintenance Marines responsible for the safety and upkeep of their aircraft.

Approximately 140 maintenance Marines in the Unit Deployment Program arrived here with VMFA(AW)-533.

Master Sgt. Karl Marshall, the VMFA(AW)-533 maintenance chief, said without his Marines the planes just don't fly.

"It's a lot of responsibility," said Marshall. "A lot of these guys are kids. I got 20-year-olds and 21-year-olds. I don't have older people running the show."

As maintenance chief, Marshall's job requires him to place the most qualified Marines in the correct positions.

Marshall explained how his job was made easier because all of his Marines are really great at what they do.

"These are probably the best crews you'll ever see," said Marshall. "I've been around for a while and these are some of the best Marines I've ever run into. It's a rarity to say I've been blessed to end up with a crew like this."

While deployed here, VMFA(AW)-533 is slated to participate in various training exercises around the Pacific from Kadena Air Base to the Philippines.

Though the VMFA(AW)-533 maintenance Marines will find themselves in surroundings different from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., the only difference in their job is how much it will increase.

"We tend to fly more when we

deploy," said Marshall. "It doesn't change what their doing, just how they're doing it."

Some of the maintenance Marines find the most difficult part of their job is simply how much there is to do.

"We're always running around," said Lance Cpl. Anthony DiVito, a VMFA(AW)-533 fixed-wing aircraft mechanic. We have a flight schedule on top of running around and we have to take care of our maintenance role too.

Though difficult sometimes, the maintenance Marines know how to accomplish the mission.

"There might be some problems, but it doesn't really affect us," said DiVito. "We just do our job."

Among the VMFA(AW)-533 maintenance Marines in charge of aircraft upkeep are aircraft ordnance technicians responsible for loading aviation ordnance on the aircraft.

Marshall said his ordnance Marines would be receiving a lot of training in the upcoming deployments.

"My ordnance Marines get all that air-to-air, air-to-ground kind of training they can't get in Beaufort," said Marshall. "They get a lot more hands-on training and they learn their job a lot better."

The aviation ordnance Marines were also unfazed by how much their workload and environment will change in the upcoming deployments.

"Different place, different people, different rules, we're still going to work just as hard," said Lance Cpl. Thomas Tasakos, a VMFA(AW)-533 aviation ordnance technician.

While the maintenance Marines understand that the job to the squadron is vital, they also realize one other thing.

"We're just another part of the whole circle," said Tasakos. "One team one fight."

VMFA(AW)-533 is currently participating in an aviation training relocation exercise in Misawa, Japan, which started July 25 and runs until Saturday.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
A Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 maintenance Marine runs a final inspection over an F/A-18 fighter jet before takeoff at the VMFA(AW)-533 hangar here July 22. Maintenance Marines look over the aircraft's airframe, power plant, weapons system, and the aircraft engines and transmissions, among other components, before they consider a fighter jet ready for takeoff.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
Two Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 maintenance Marines perform a maintenance check on an F/A-18 jet before takeoff at the VMFA(AW)-533 hangar here July 22. Approximately 140 of roughly 200 Marines who came with VMFA(AW)-533 are responsible for the safety and upkeep of about 10 F/A-18 squadron aircraft.



Japan's 12,388-foot behemoth, Mount Fuji, leaves adjacent towns and hiking trails in its monstrous shadow at the start of the evening July 16. Like many service members have done in the past, Marines from Combat Logistics Company 36 chose to conduct their live-fire training, Exercise Dragon Fire 2009, at the active volcano's feet.

LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

Cpl. Robert Giuliani, a Combat Logistics Company 36 Marine, fires tracer rounds from a 240G medium machine gun during the night fire portion of Exercise Dragon Fire 2009.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

Sgt. Sean Regan, a Combat Logistics Company 36 Marine, loads an M-16 magazine before a training evolution during exercise Dragon Fire 2009.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

Lance Cpl. Steven Regan, a Combat Logistics Company 36 Marine, carries a kevlar full of shells for a police call at the rifle range.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

Lance Cpl. Mark Perehinec, under the eyes of his instructor, throws a grenade on a range during Exercise Dragon Fire 2009.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

Marines from Combat Logistics Company 36 end their second squad-based rush exercise at the firing range during Exercise Dragon Fire 2009 at Camp Fuji, Japan, July 14. Dragon Fire 2009 was an opportunity for Marines to fire many different weapon systems and reinstate basic Marines combat skills, maintaining operational readiness while in the Fleet Marine Force.

CLC-36 Marines team up for weapons, field training at Camp Fuji

CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan — Marines and sailors assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni have very few chances to sharpen their weapon-handling skills and field training.

That was the main inspiration Gunnery Sgt. Rafael Miranda, Combat Logistics Company 36 training operations chief, had when scheduling the unit for a visit here for its annual exercise, Dragon Fire 2009.

Starting July 6, 68 Marines and sailors participated in a number of exercises at the base of Japan's 12,388-foot active volcano, Mount Fuji, including "Table 2" field fire, crew-served weapons training, land navigation, night firing and a final training

evolution to mountain's summit. "For some of the Marines, this was probably the only opportunity they had to go out and do movement-to-contact drills instead of just firing down a range for score," said Miranda. "A lot of the weapons in our armory aren't authorized for use in Iwakuni. Camp Fuji is the perfect place to go out there and get that training in. I mean, how often do you get to shoot a (.50 caliber machine gun)?"

The unit typically heads to the training ground with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. This year, they went alone. While there, the unit focused on building small-unit leadership skills while enhancing weapons handling. Miranda said these are some of the unit's most important missions.

"We had a lot of challenges while we were there, some things

out of our control like the bad weather," said Miranda. "We also had different shops getting together for the first time, so everyone had to get used to each other. That's where small-unit leadership comes in."

Although in Iwakuni the unit members reside in their respective sections, they were made between junior and senior leadership. Sgt. Christopher Repreza, a platoon sergeant during the exercise, said this tested his skills as a noncommissioned officer as he was tasked with becoming quickly familiar and comfortable with an entirely new set of Marines and sailors.

"It benefits us a lot to work with Marines outside our (military occupational specialty)," he said.

"As an NCO, you're expected to know your Marines. That is, know what their strengths and weaknesses are, know their personalities and know what type of leadership style they respond best to. When we're all out there in the field and someone says, 'here, you're in charge of these Marines,' you have to know what to do. In the beginning, everybody was just trying to get used to each other and it was difficult. We realized we had to learn to endure the training and endure each other. But toward the end, some Marines who hadn't met before the exercise were already talking about getting together back in Iwakuni to practice these same skills in their downtime. The training was more of a good challenge than a hardship."

This 15-day exercise came to a close July 21.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marines conduct raid on Lakari Bazaar, face enemy

SGT. SCOTT WHITTINGTON
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 3

LAKARI, Afghanistan — Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 3, along with the Afghan National Army conducted an early-morning raid on the bazaar here July 18.

"The purpose of the raid was to disrupt freedom of movement with the bazaar and to exploit the enemy force logistic base," said Capt. Junwei Sun, commander, Co. F, 2/8. "This seizure means we invaded Taliban territory, discovered their caches, disrupted their log operations and squeezed them out of the area."

The Taliban used the open-air market to store mass quantities of drugs, homemade explosives and precursor weaponry. Taliban insurgents also tax shop owners as a further means to make cash. Agents with the Drug Enforcement Agency flew in shortly after the Marines and ANA began clearing more than 300 structures in the bazaar. They seized approximately 270,000 pounds of poppy seeds, 33 bags of opium, 13 bags of hash, nearly 50 barrels of precursory explosive materials, bolt-action rifles and more than 20 IEDs. They also discovered 130,000 pounds of fertilizer that could be used for explosives.

One DEA agent said it was a good haul, and a very clear message was sent to the Taliban.

"The Taliban needs to realize that this area doesn't belong to them anymore," said Sun. "If they choose to fight, they will be killed."

Clearing all the structures took approximately 12 hours, and the Marines had to use explosives to gain entry into some stores. The stores ranged from a barber shop and garage to clothing and household items. Each room was marked to distinguish that it had already been cleared and whether drugs or explosive material had been found inside.

The raid was intended to only last four to six hours but due to the size of the seizure being larger than expected, the Marines set up security positions throughout the bazaar in order to stay overnight. The next morning, a platoon patrolled through and around the bazaar.

Approximately four hours into the patrol, first and second squad were ambushed from a tree line 800 meters across open farmland. Members of 3rd Squad were to the south along the road and canal to Lakari village when



SGT. SCOTT WHITTINGTON

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Paul Gray, squad automatic rifleman, Cpl. Brian Short, 3rd squad leader and Lance Cpl. James Ivy, SAW gunner with 2nd Platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, assess the terrain during a raid on the Taliban-controlled Lakari Bazaar July 18. The battalion is part of Regimental Combat Team 3, which is currently conducting counter insurgency operations in southern Afghanistan in partnership with the Afghan national security forces to provide stability in the region.

shots began firing toward the other two squads.

"This was the first fire fight for most of my guys," said Cpl. Brian Short, 23, squad leader and a Mount Vernon, Ohio, native. "They did really well."

Short, a Mount Vernon High School graduate, had maneuvered his squad toward the other two under fire.

Jumping over a wide stream,

navigating through grapes vines, okra plants and a corn field, Short's squad spotted the other two squads and the enemy tree line. With the entire platoon supporting each other, Marines began squad and fire-team rushes to within 300 meters of the enemy position.

"I wasn't really that scared. I just wanted to destroy the enemy so my guys wouldn't get hurt," said Lance Cpl. Shane M. Lantry, a 3rd Squad team leader and Floyd, N.Y., native. "All the training we get really helped."

Marines responded to the enemies' fire with hot lead and grenades of their own. Once the Marines pinned down the insurgents, a call came over the radio telling them an AH-1W Super Cobra and UH-1N



SGT. SCOTT WHITTINGTON

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, take cover behind a wall after receiving enemy fire during a patrol near Lakari village July 19. The battalion is part of Regimental Combat Team 3, which is currently conducting counter insurgency operations in southern Afghanistan in partnership with the Afghan national security forces in order to stabilize the region.

Huey were inbound to make a heliborne attack. One of the Marines launched smoke toward the enemy's hiding spot from his M203 grenade launcher while a message was radioed to engage the enemy enveloped by the smoke.

The Cobra gunship launched hellfire rockets and 20mm machine gun fire followed closely by the Huey and its machine gun. The helicopters made two passes over the enemy's position in the trees and hay stacks.

"It was a great example of combined arms," said Lance Cpl. James O. Ivy, SAW gunner,

3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon and a Lawrence, Mich., native.

The Marines returned to the bazaar and continued their mission with the company.

"Overall I was very happy with the Marines' performance," said Staff Sgt. Michael Garrett, 29, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon and a Toledo, Ohio, native. "To motivate the Marines, I kept yelling out the mission of the rifle squad. To locate, close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver."

The Marines had no casualties, but pilots confirmed at least two dead insurgents.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Academic Advisor Visit
University of Maryland University College academic advisors are scheduled to visit the station Aug. 10, 11, and 12. Appointments must be made in advance by contacting the Iwakuni UMUC office. Each appointment will be 30 minutes in a private classroom one-on-one with an academic advisor. To make an appointment, call the UMUC office at 253-3392.

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

Youth Curfew Hours
The curfew for youth under 18 is 12 – 5:30 a.m. during weekends, holidays and summer vacation. On school nights, curfew is 10 p.m. – 5:30 a.m. For more information, contact the Provost Marshal's Office's Crime Prevention division at 253-5105.

Summer Reading Program
The library is scheduled to host a variety of art and craft projects 10 a.m. every Tuesday for the Summer Reading Program to encourage children to be more creative. The program is open to children ages 5 to 12. The programs will include guest speakers and books on art, poetry, theater and dancing. Children interested in participating can sign up from now until July 28.

Taxiway Construction Project
In support of the runway relocation program, construction of new cross-taxiways adjacent to the existing runway is underway. To mitigate impacts on current runway operations, the work is being performed 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. every night with the exception of Sunday night. Initially, the contractor's gate will be closed from 9 – 10:30 p.m. Starting late July, the contractor's gate will remain open all night and residents can expect a steady flow of concrete delivery trucks through the gate. Construction of this portion of the taxiways is estimated to be completed in late October.

SOFA Testing Center
The SOFA Drivers License Testing Center has moved from the Learning Resource Center in Bldg. 360 to the LRC in Bldg. 497.

Budget for Baby Class
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is offering a monthly class to help families realistically project expenses caused by a new baby. For more information or to sign up, call 253-5311 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

Survival Japanese Class
The Japanese American Society is scheduled to begin a very basic Japanese course noon – 1 p.m. Aug. 6, at the Japanese American Society Office, Bldg. 261. The class will continue every Thursday through August. Learn how to, get around off base, greetings and basic social interaction. Cost for the whole month is 3000 yen. Class size is limited. For more information contact the JAS at 253-4744.

CTC Class Registration
Central Texas College class registration is going until Aug. 21 in Bldg. 411 Room 109. Classes will begin Aug. 24. For more information, call 253-3288 or email iwakuni.jpn.pfec@ctcd.edu.

Coupon Distribution Program
The Coupon Distribution Program is available for all eligible personnel aboard the air station courtesy of Marine and Family Services. Coupons are donated by various donors and are good until six months past the expiration date. Stop by Bldg. 411 and pick up your free coupons, look for the baskets marked "Free Coupons." For more information, please contact Marine and Family Services at 253-6161.

New NMCRS Service
The new Quick Assist Loan Program provides

active duty Marines and sailors with no outstanding loans from the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society \$300 need-based loans repayable by allotment within 10 months. Those interested must bring their most recent LES and active duty ID card to the NMCRS office 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

Electrical Utility Project
In support of the runway relocation program, a project is currently ongoing to upgrade existing electrical infrastructure. As part of this upgrade, Newell Drive, Brusher Street, E. Circle Drive, and 7th Street will experience partial road closures and single-lane traffic now until mid-September. Dates may vary depending on weather and subsurface conditions. For more information, call 253-5353.

To submit an event, automobile, item or job advertisement request, please send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please include a contact name, at least one phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, you may submit in person at the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1, Room 216.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tues. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
11 a.m. Children's Church
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities

Teen Programs

- High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12)
- Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8)
- HS&JR Bible Studies
- Retreats
- Service Projects
- Missions Trip
- Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring
- Parent Support Group

Call 253-5183 or e-mail jlataw@clubbeyond.org.

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, July 31, 2009

7 p.m. Imagine That (PG)
Premier
10 p.m. Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13)

Saturday, August 1, 2009

1 p.m. Imagine That (PG)
4 p.m. Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG)
7 p.m. Land of the Lost (PG-13)
10 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG)

Sunday, August 2, 2009

1 p.m. Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)
4 p.m. Imagine That (PG)
7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG)

Monday, August 3, 2009

7 p.m. Land of the Lost (PG-13)

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

7 p.m. Drag Me to Hell (PG-13)

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

1 p.m. Imagine That (PG)
7 p.m. The Taking of Pelham 123 (R)

Thursday, August 6, 2009

1 p.m. Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG)
Last Showing
7 p.m. Terminator Salvation: The Future Begins (PG-13)
Last Showing

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1992 Honda Del Sol Si Convertible
Red. JCI until May 2010. \$1,900 OBO. For more information, call 080-3056-9610 or e-mail tina.t.trinh@gmail.com.

1994 Honda Civic
Blue Pearl. Great Condition. JCI until Sept. 2009. \$1,200 OBO. For more information, call 080-3056-9610 or e-mail tina.t.trinh@gmail.com.

1998 Nissan Laurel
Excellent condition. Cold A/C. New brakes, newer tires. JCI good until May 2011. Asking \$1,500 OBO. For more information, call 253-7229.

1997 Mitsubishi Mirage
Well maintained, clean. Low Miles, great gas mileage, JCI until Oct. 2010, AC/heat,

power windows, hatchback with fold down back seat. Recent oil change, and safety inspection. Asking \$1,800 OBO. For more information, call 080-3519-7248 or email sweetlynlou71@yahoo.com.

Miscellaneous

Dinning table with 8 chairs
Solid oak table with leaf. Asking \$800 OBO. For more information, call 090-8505-2818 or e-mail chris_leighann.junkins@yahoo.com.

English Bulldog
Male, neutered, has JKC, and a champion bloodline. He is micro chipped, up-to-date on all shots, wonderful with children. We are selling due to the airliner not allowing him to travel when it is above 75 degrees. We will be leaving in August. Asking \$850.00 OBO. For more information, call 253-2107

Lost Watch
Angel heart watch that is silver in color with a pink face and a small diamond above the

12. Reward if found. Please call 253-2107

Lost Diamond Ring
Diamond ring is gold with six round diamonds almost looks like a shooting star effect. Last seen July 3. Could have been stolen. Reward available for the person who returns the ring. Please call 253-2107.

Jobs

Chapel Positions Available
Protestant Pianist, Protestant Organist, Christian Non-Denominational Music Director, Protestant Director of Religious Education, Catholic Director of Religious Education, Catholic Organist, Catholic Choir Director. For more information please call the Logistical Contract Office at 253-4233.

Morning Nanny
Duties include preparing and taking the child to school weekdays 6 - 8:30 a.m. Sept. 7 - Nov. 6. Pays \$900 for 90 total hours. For more information, call 080-3094-9489.

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has volunteer positions available for those wishing to assist military families. Reimbursement for childcare and mileage is available. Stop by the NMCRS or call 253-5311, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of mushroom soup, Creole soup, sauerbraten, hot and spicy chicken, fried rice, oven glo potatoes, fried zucchini, calico corn, dinner rolls, potato salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, congo bars, marble cake double layer, butter cream frosting, blueberry crunch
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Cream Of potatoes soup, chicken noodle soup, southern fried chicken, BBQ beef cube, steamed rice, buttered pasta, black eye peas, Creole squash, macaroni salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, Spice cake with butter cream frosting, lemon meringue pie
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

Clam chowder soup, minestrone soup, braised beef and noodles, baked fish, mashed potatoes, fried cabbage, mix vegetables, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, spinach salad standard salad bar, banana bread, shortbread cookies, Dutch apple pie
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

GOOD SAMARITAN/NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

From May 1 - Aug. 31, 2009, submit names of people ages 10-17, who have been good samaritans or good neighbors to PMO in order to place them in the running for the Summer 2009 Good Samaritan/Neighbor Program award. The nominee must be someone who reported, prevented or stopped an unsafe or criminal act. The program is strictly anonymous. This is your chance to encourage our children to be good citizens. Let's award our youth for doing their part to improve our community!

Call the PMO Crime Prevention Section at 253-5105 for more information.
Submit all nominations to the Crime Prevention Section during normal working hours.
After normal working hours, submit nominations to the PMO Desk Sergeant, Bldg. 608.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Ronald Seubert, the Provost Marshal's Office provost sergeant, bows in gratitude as Tokio Okano, the Iwakuni police chief, presents Seubert with a letter of appreciation at the Iwakuni police department July 21. An assistant to the police chief said Seubert was presented with the award because he proved himself to be a superb and attentive person to work with whenever the police department needed his help. Although Seubert was presented with the award for his diligent work with the Iwakuni police department, Seubert attributed his success to other factors. "It's really for the department," said Seubert. "I know they recognize me, but it's not because of me. It's because of what all my Marines and what the military police do on the installation to maintain the relationship between us and them; and even the Japanese liaisons that work with the Japanese police - it's just a good work relationship." This marked the first time a Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni PMO provost sergeant received this kind of recognition from the Iwakuni police department. Seubert left Iwakuni July 25 to take his post with Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 as chief of security for the president's helicopter squadron at Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico, Va.



Jordan Kroell (center right), 4 Bangers player, leaps to respond to an expected slam from Speezike's Harry Trinidad (center left) during the 5-on-5 Volleyball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Saturday. Speezike battled through three rounds in the losers' bracket, defeating the Swamp Donkeys, America's Squadron and 40z Crew, the team that had sent them to the losers' bracket, to get a shot at the undefeated 4 Bangers.

4 Bangers serve Speezike 2 straight losses, take championship

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 4 Bangers served up all comers with a steaming plate of loss as they cruised through the 5-on-5 Volleyball Tournament, winning back-to-back matches for the championship against Speezike 22-20 and 20-14 at IronWorks Gym here Saturday. Even though Speezike put up a good fight, their early descent into the losers' bracket left them playing four best of three matches before getting a shot at the undefeated 4 Bangers.

"We were just beat," Harry Trinidad, a Speezike player, said. "We thought we had enough juice."

The 4 Bangers ascent to champions seemed almost impossible if not improbable.

The original 4 Bangers team, comprised of Robert Crochet, Aziz Guamelon, Jordan Kroell and Michael Westcott, was a full man short.

"We we're just going to run with four," said Kroell.

But Kroell recognized John Bass in the crowd and enlisted his aid.

The five-on-five tournament was Bass' first time playing, said Kroell.

Besides the quirky formation of the team, they had only started practicing together two days before the tournament sans beginner Bass.

Despite these seemingly apparent challenges, the 4 Bangers smashed the competition and found themselves in a final showdown with Speezike, a team they had not faced during the tournament.

Since Speezike had risen from the ashes of the losers' bracket, to win they would need to win two separate best of three matches.

In the first game, neither team was able to take a commanding lead.

Although Kroell was very effective at spiking, the towering Speezike's Bryan

Ruppelle and monstrous vertical leap of Trinidad helped combat a number of Kroell's attempts.

Trinidad and Ruppelle were able to lay down his fair share of spikes as well, but in the end Speezike fell 22-20.

With everything on the line for Speezike, the second game began with them taking a 3-1 lead.

Despite the initial push from Speezike, the 4 Bangers battled back and evened the score 12-12.

From there, Speezike's fatigue began to show and they were unable to defend against the rain of spikes from Kroell and Crochet, named most-valuable player for his consistent serving.

Managing a few more points, Speezike finally went down 20-14.

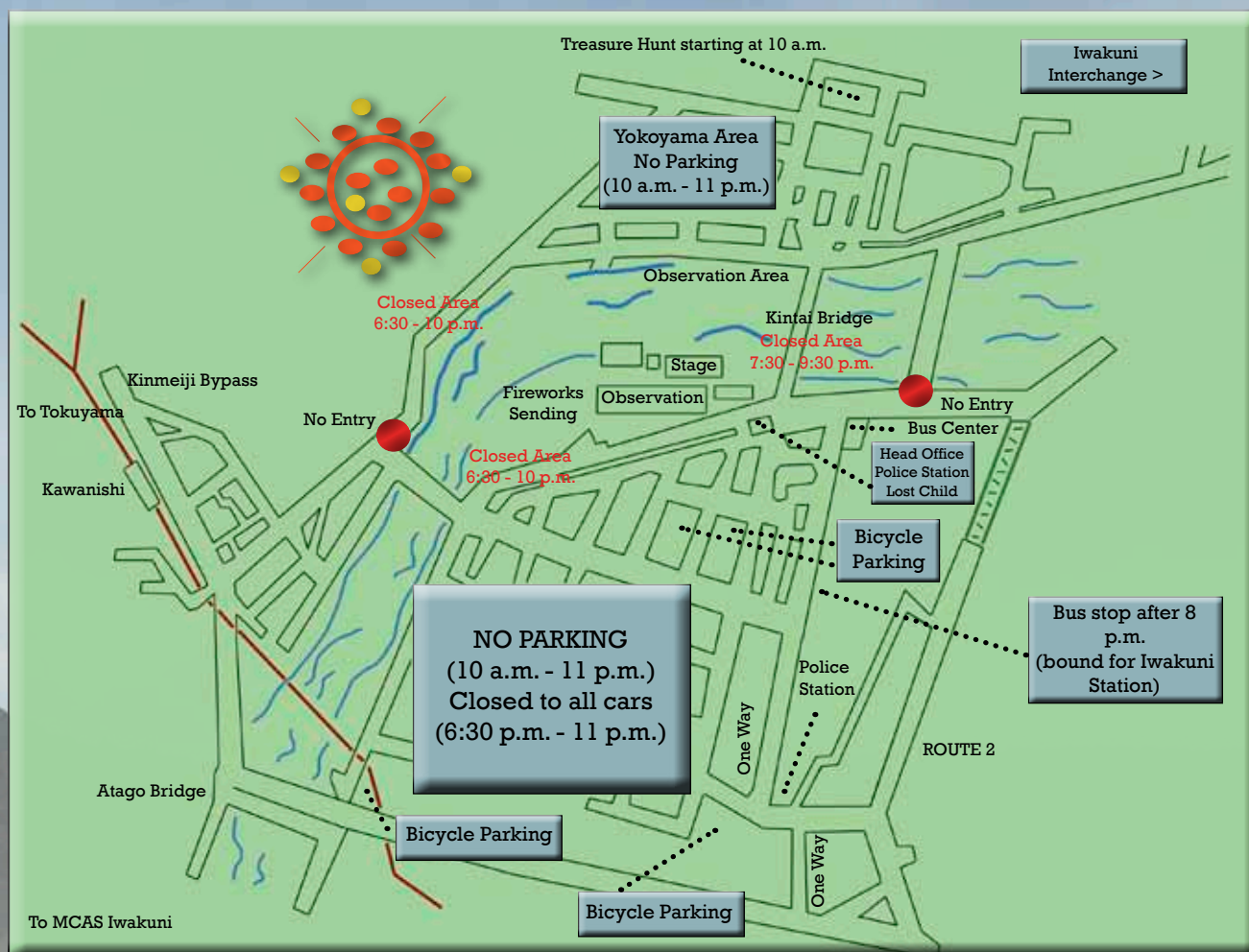
The 4 Bangers didn't need practice; they came together fluidly for one day of domination.

"We didn't have any real ringers," said Kroell. "We all played in tune."



Jordan Kroell (right), 4 Bangers player, sends the volleyball blazing over the hands of Speezike's Sam Cadavos during the 5-on-5 Volleyball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Saturday. The 4 Bangers took the best of three championship games 22-20 and 20-14.

42nd Nishikigawa River Festival



EVENT TRAFFIC INFORMATION

Traffic restrictions are in effect tomorrow near the Kintai area to make way for the 42nd Nishikigawa Water Festival.

There will be no parking near the firework launching area from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and the area is closed to all traffic from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Designated bicycle parking spaces are available at Iwakuni Driving School (English sign at entrance), Iwakuni Elementary School and Iwakuni 1-Chome.

No swimming or rafting is allowed at designated areas on the map.

The traffic restriction map

Shuttle buses are available between JR Iwakuni Station and the Kintai Bridge (approx. 20 minutes), and from Marifu Elementary School to the bridge (approx. 15 minutes).

Parking space is available at Marifu Elementary School.

Bus schedule

- o Outbound to Kintai Bridge
JR Iwakuni Station (bus stop No. 2), first departure 4 p.m.
Marifu Elementary School, first departure 4:30 p.m.
- o Inbound to JR Iwakuni Station (via Marifu Elementary School)
Kintai Bridge, last departure 10:10 p.m.

Fare (one-way):

- o JR Iwakuni Station – Kintai Bridge 240 yen for adult, 120 yen for elementary school students or younger
- o Marifu Elementary School – Kintai Bridge 210 yen for adult, 110 yen for elementary school students or younger

** Shuttle buses will depart once full. Times may fluctuate due to gridlock and unforeseen events.