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 EATS, TREATS, FIREWORKS
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FEATURE

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 30, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



STOCK PHOTO

A microscopic image of the H1N1 influenza virus taken in the Centers for Disease Control Influenza Laboratory.

H1N1 still hanging overhead

SGT. ROBERT DURHAM
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

It may have disappeared almost entirely from television headlines but it certainly hasn't disappeared from the planet, or Iwakuni for that matter.

Dozens of H1N1 cases have been reported in Iwakuni, and there have been two cases of H1N1 that have involved family members of station employees.

Both patients were isolated and treated effectively. To ensure you don't become number three, there are certain individual responsibilities you should consider.

BUMEDNOTE 6220 is designed to provide U.S. Navy guidance for effective treatment and prevention of H1N1. It has plenty of tips to help you take care of yourself. Such as...

WEAR A MASK

If you are not feeling well and have to go out in public, wear a proper mask that covers your nose and mouth.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Hands should be washed a minimum of 20 seconds using

SEE **FLU** ON PAGE 3

MWSS-171 Marines take to field



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Expeditionary aircraft technicians push a Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear System during a field exercise held at Penny Lake here July 27 through Saturday. During the course of the exercise Marines received hands-on training in the field to learn new skills.

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Expeditionary aircraft technicians from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 conducted a field exercise at Penny Lake here July 27 through Saturday. "Most people don't know the full extent of our (military

occupational specialty) once we are out in a field environment," said Lance Cpl. Troy R. Oliver, an expeditionary airfield technician. "In the field it is our job to basically set up an airfield for everything from jets to helicopters." The main reason we have conducted this exercise is to better ourselves and our ability

to get the job done in a timely manner."

During the exercise Marines were tested on their knowledge and had to learn new skills.

During a normal workday airfield technicians typically do not work with the equipment

SEE **AIRFIELD** ON PAGE 3

MALS-12 gives local Boy Scouts boost

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Lt. Col. Jonathan Gackle, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 commanding officer, visited the Boys Scouts of America Lodge here to present the members of Iwakuni Troop 77 with a monetary donation on behalf of MALS-12 Monday.

MALS-12 presented the \$100 donation to Troop 77 to support and thank them for the help they have given the squadron in the past.


"Because we're a small community, we rely and

stand on the shoulders of our volunteers," said Gackle. "We have volunteers here that are supporting the scouts, and those scouts are our children. It's all part of supporting the larger community of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni."

Scouts of Troop 77 have lent their assistance to MALS-12 and the community on several occasions, including this year's Friendship Day.

Gackle said he hoped the squadron's donation would help the scouts continue their work.

SEE **SCOUTS** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Give your best, pursue excellence’

**LT. CMDR. JOHN Q. COMETA
DEPUTY COMMAND
CHAPLAIN**

The past few weeks after Michael Jackson died, the mass media have been bombarding us instantaneously with huge amounts of information about his life, his music, his patented dance and his legacy. No doubt, he is one of the most commercially successful entertainers of all time. Interestingly, we were born in the same year. He was my soundtrack when I was growing up. I remember watching him on television singing “Ben” and “Til Be There.” Though his life was full of controversies, his passion and love for music, and his pursuit of excellence earned him the title

“king of pop.” He endeavored to master his craft and excel in all he did. Each day offers many challenges and opportunities to excel in all areas of our lives. This is not to say we should not be concerned about the past or the future, but we do not need to be overly concerned about something we have no control over. Richard Blackaby, author of best selling book “Experiencing God,” wrote, “No one, regardless of worldly rank, strength or wealth has been able to escape death. As soon as we are born, death becomes our destiny. Many have tried, but no one has developed an antidote for death.” Indeed, life is short. It is in this light I have resolved to live each day as if it were my last day on earth.

Before I go to work, I always hug my wife and children, and show my utmost love to them so that if I don’t come back alive, I leave them good memories. How I live and what I do today influences those around me either positively or negatively and will leave a legacy. As we press on toward the mark of the high calling of God, remember we are not alone. God said, “I will never leave you, neither will I forsake you.” As the saying goes, “We may not know our future, but we know who is holding our future.” The ancient philosopher Horace said in 1 B.C., “Carpe diem, qua minimum, credula postero.” Seize the day, put no trust in tomorrow. Similar words are expressed in Matthew 6:34, “Do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will take care for itself...” May we continue to give our best and seize the day for God and for our country.

Road rules: Tips for driving in Japan

**SUBMITTED BY
STATION SAFETY**

In Japan, cars are driven on the left side of the road and have the driver's seat and steering wheel on their right side. The legal minimum age for driving is 18 years old. Road signs and rules follow international standards, and most signs on major roads are in Japanese and English. Drinking and driving is strictly prohibited. The typical speed limits are 80 to 100 kilometers per hour on expressways, 40 kilometers per hour in urban areas, 30 kilometers per hour in side streets and 50 to 60 kilometers per hour elsewhere. Most roads in Japan are toll free with the exception of expressways and some scenic driving routes. Road conditions tend to be good, although side streets in the cities can be rather narrow. Traffic congestion is a frequent problem in and around urban centers. Drivers generally tend to be well mannered and considerate. Some dangers on Japanese roads include drivers speeding though intersections despite the traffic light turning red, people

stopping their vehicles at the edge of the street in a way in which they block traffic, and cyclists driving on the wrong side of the road. Here are some tips for driving in Japan: ■When children are raising their hand on the side of the road, it is a sign that they are going to cross. ■Scooters use the shoulder of the road. Be aware that a scooter may be right next to you when attempting to make a left turn. ■Be aware that bicycles may show up anywhere when you are driving. ■Drive slowly when driving on a narrow road, especially where there are many side streets connected. Pedestrians and bicycles may suddenly appear from a side street. ■Expect heavy traffic during rush hours and when it is raining. ■No turns are permitted on red lights unless a green arrow light is illuminated in the direction you are attempting to turn. Report all traffic accidents, on or off base, to the Provost Marshal's Office. For an emergency, call 253-3303 (DSN) or 0827-79-3303.

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 the Provost Marshal’s Office 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.

Boy Scouts get monetary injection

SCOUTS FROM PAGE 1

Jeffery Fleming, MALS-12 family readiness officer, was also on hand to present the donation to the Boy Scouts. Fleming said the check was a way to say they understand and appreciate everything the scouts do to help to foster good relations with the Japanese. “This is our youth,” said Fleming. “Our youth is going to shape and form how our society goes.” The scout leaders were quick to express how much they appreciated the donation. “I think it’s absolutely outstanding,” said James Wentling, Boy Scouts Troop 77 Scout Master. “If it wasn’t for the donations from the people aboard the base, the scout troop wouldn’t be able to do the things it does.” Aside from volunteering their time to MALS-12 and the community on and off the station, Troop 77 scouts conduct summer camp trips, which cost them money. “All of our money and our funds either go to charity or to our summer camp,” said 16-year-old Trevor Cameron Wentling, Troop 77 Life Scout and senior patrol leader. “There’s only so much we can do on this base to raise money, and so when we have things like this happen, it’s not an everyday type deal. It’s really, really great.” The Boy Scouts of America was founded on Feb. 8, 1910 and has adopted as its mission to instill ethical and moral values in all its members.



Lt. Col. Jonathan Gackle, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 commanding officer (right), and Jeffery Fleming, MALS-12 family readiness officer (left), pose for a group picture with Boy Scouts Iwakuni Troop 77 at the Boy Scouts Lodge here Aug. 3. Gackle presented a \$100 check on behalf of MALS-12 as a way to support and thank the troop for the help they've given the community and squadron in the past.

Aircraft techs. get hands-on training



A Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation operator backs a Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear System into place during a field exercise at Penny Lake here, July 29. Marines attended eight classes, which covered topics such as installing a Medical Evacuation Pad and shelter assembly, designed and taught by Marines in their shop during the weeklong exercise.

AIRFIELD FROM PAGE 1

used on deployments. Master Sgt. Michael T. Westcott said the field exercise is the first time most of the Marines used the equipment. Westcott pointed out the exercise was not only an opportunity for the Marines to get acquainted with the gear, but a chance to work as a team in a field environment. “Going through procedures while at the station is good practice and it helps things run smoother in a deployed environment,” said Westcott. Marines attended eight classes designed and taught by other Marines in their shop. Classes covered a variety of topics from installing a medical evacuation pad to assembling shelters. “I really liked that all the classes were very hands-on,” said Lance Cpl. Jessica Garcia, an expeditionary aircraft technician. “I really appreciated how all the instructors really broke everything down step-by-step.” Over the course of the week the Marines had a chance to put what they learned in the classroom into action through various training scenarios. Garcia said in one of the scenarios they had to set up a refueling station but at the last moment found out they had to reverse the refueling station to better accommodate the aircraft. “The scenarios were realistic and definitely something we should always prepare for,” said Garcia. “By practicing out here we are ensuring things run smoother when we are on an actual deployment.” One scenario scheduled at night gave Marines the opportunity to assemble a lit-up airstrip. The scenarios at night were scheduled, but the spurts of rain the Marines encountered were not.

“The rain won’t stop us, lightning will, but rain won’t,” said Garcia with a smirk on her face.

Staying healthy: H1N1 flu prevention

FLU FROM PAGE 1

liquid soap and water. Hand sanitizers can be used as long as your hands are not soiled. Make sure your hands are completely wet with sanitizer and you should rub your hands together until they are completely dry. COVER YOUR MOUTH If you can’t or won’t wear a mask, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue to avoid spreading germs to others, especially when you think you are going to sneeze or cough. Most importantly, if you have symptoms including but not limited to sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue, isolate yourself immediately and notify the Branch Health Clinic, or report to urgent care. Many H1N1 cases are very similar to seasonal flu or a bad cold. Several victims even reported vomiting and diarrhea. Remember, it is absolutely imperative to get treatment as soon as possible if you believe you may be infected with H1N1. Another thing H1N1 has in common with seasonal flu... it can kill you. You have to understand your role in protecting yourself and others against H1N1. For more information regarding the virus itself, visit www.cdc.gov or read BUMEDNOTE 6220.

Club Iwakuni provides transition into new restaurant

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

As I walked into Club Iwakuni for my routine Friday morning breakfast, I was pleased to find that I didn't have to walk up the stairs for the usual buffet.

I instead ventured into a South Western style dining room located down stairs offering new menu items for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Why no grand opening? Because unlike many people think, this is not the new restaurant that everyone has been waiting for.

Without much advertisement, there was a soft opening held for the restaurant in June, but what most people don't know is that this is only a transition into the new restaurant.

"We needed to change things up a bit," said Kristen Carter, the food and beverage manager.

Carter said they needed to get out of having buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day.

The transition restaurant gives community members a preview of the new menu but it is still subject to change during the ongoing renovations.

"It's here to lessen the impact the renovation has on the community," Carter said.

While eating a platter of fresh

fruit and a plate of blueberry pancakes, Mike and Annie Gaither said they are pleased with what they've seen so far.

"There is more of a variety of food," said Annie, who has visited the restaurant for the past five years. "We miss our Greek salad, though."

The restaurant's breakfast menu includes a variety of pancakes, french toast, omelets and other breakfast specialties offered from 6 to 11 a.m. every Monday through Sunday.

Appetizers range from Caribbean-style coconut shrimp to beer-battered fried mushrooms, or a healthy vegetable platter.

The lunch menu offers oriental favorites, baskets, sandwiches and wraps that come with a choice of regular or curly fires, potato salad, or coleslaw, and an option to build your own burger. Lunch runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

Dinner is held from 5 p.m.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
Guests enjoy lunch at Club Iwakuni's transition restaurant here August 4. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Monday through Sunday. The breakfast and lunch menu offers some favorites from the old restaurant.

to midnight Sundays through Thursdays and from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

The family dinner classics include down-home chicken fried steak, Cajun barbeque chicken and shrimp and an array of pizza selections.

"I think people appreciate that they don't have to put their own

plates together for breakfast, lunch and dinner anymore," said Carter.

The new restaurant will be named JD's, but there is not yet an approximation of when it will have its grand opening.

Until then enjoy the delicious options currently offered at the club.

Slinging mud: Station community gets down, dirty, brings two local pools back to life

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

On a hot, humid and rainy Saturday morning, they took to the mountains armed with shovels and pickaxes.

Working tirelessly through the afternoon, they moved rocks, shoveled gravel and extracted the soupy sediment heavy rains had deposited into a community pool.

For three summer weeks the Futashika community has been unable to use their pools.

But Marines and a few Single Marine Program representatives put in more than seven hours extracting nearly 50 tons of debris to fully resurrect the children's pool and nearly restore the adult pool Saturday.

"(The work) was just non-stop manual labor, but it was actually fun and it was all worth it in the end seeing the little kids play in (the pool)," Lance Cpl. Anthony R. Brewer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171's senior Single Marine Program representative and supply clerk, said.

The job was definitely challenging and the community really needed help getting their pools back in working order.

"The community up by three-falls is nothing but old or retired people or young, young kids so there are really no middle-aged people to help out," said Brewer.

Despite the arduous task, the Marines managed to power through with some small amenities.

SMP provided the necessary supplies for a cookout, and after about five hours of cleaning, the cleaning crew sauntered down to the adjacent three falls, picking up trash as they went.

After a short respite and bellies full of food, the volunteers returned the way they came, again collecting trash along the way and mentally preparing for round two.

As the day waxed and waned on, spirits began to break.

Taking in the situation and surveying the local surroundings, the Marines stuck in the pool came up with an obvious solution — everyone must get wet.

"We were just tired and we

were kind of losing motivation, but we were pretty much almost done with the children's pool and we found some people who were filling sandbags and what not," said Brewer "They were working hard, but they hadn't got in the pools like some of us did — we just pretty much pulled everyone in."

Overall the event was very successful and a personal achievement for Brewer.

"It was awesome that 171, we got like 20 people out there within two, three days of notice," he said.

More than just the overwhelming response from MWSS-171, the event helps to further reinforce the good coming from the presence of the station.

"People should know it's really good for us to get to interact with the Japanese people so they know us in a better light than we've had in the past," Seaman Recruit Bryan T. Banks, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 religious program specialist, said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE CPL. ALEX DEGENHARDT

Opting to go in hands-first, Lance Cpl. Ivan Ortega, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 ground communications technician, reaches down into the murky pool water to extract gravel and sediment during a pool clean-up event at the Futashika community pools Saturday. The Futashika community has been unable to use their pools for the past three weeks because heavy rainfalls flooded the pools with large rocks, gravel and sediment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE CPL. ALEX DEGENHARDT

Station community members and Futashika community members take a moment Saturday to gather in the Futashika communities children's pool after spending the day cleaning out the large rocks, gravel and sediment washed into the pools by recent rain storms. Community members gave up most of their Saturday and spent more than seven hours cleaning out the Futashika communities pools.

August Promotions

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.
Torres, Raul

Gunnery Sgt.
Sabido, Kent

VMFA-242

Lance Cpl.
Zublis, Anthony R.

Cpl.
Gordon Jr., Harvey L.
Higgins, William E.
Pelletier, Joshua D.
Savage, John H.
Sinon, Andrew J.
Zimmerer, Blake A.

Gunnery Sgt.
Ballard Jr., James D.

MWSS-171

Pfc.
Ortiz II, Joseph R.

Lance Cpl.
Benschoter, Brandon P.
Bloss, Bruce E.
Dozier, Timothy M.
Esparza, Nico A.
Faris, Rustin D.
Ladwig, Lance B.
Lieberum, David D.
Lopezmontenegro, Cesar D.
Nelson, Phillip K.
Stutsman, Ian J.
Jones, Terrance L.
Williams, Anthony A.
Wyman, Blakeney M.

Cpl.
Davis, Kylecortez L.

Sgt.
Corral, Miguel
Mirandadiaz, Esau
Tichy, Eric J.

Gunnery Sgt.
Paris Jr., Willie B.

MAG-12

Cpl.
Kriss, Justin P.

Gunnery Sgt.
Schmidt, Christopher L.

H&HS

Pfc.
Holbrook III, Robert M.

Lance Cpl.
Blackburn, Miranda J.
Boehm, Steven R.
Devlin, Michael J.
Justice, Kenneth G.
Loehr, Andrew M.
Mitchell, Antionette D.
Page, Phillip M.
Smith, Christopher A.
Sweat, Jacob A.
Threadgill Austin J.

Cpl.
Connor, Nathan A.
Dieujuste, Romulus
Jones, Quincy D.
White, Casey G.

Sgt.
Eubanks, Brian O.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.
Bartholomew, Nicholas H.
Bayes, Joseph W.
Gruhn, Elliot Z.
Renjifo, Damian E.

Cpl.
Campbell, Ross J.
Campos, Ricardo
Cochran, David L.
Donovan, Joseph E.
Horvath, Michael A.
Hutton, Scott F.
Lima, Alexander S.
Lujan, Mark A.
Miller, Albert D.
Mills, Adrian R.
Probasco, Nathan A.
Ray, Russell W.

Sgt.
Cover Jr., Richard W.
Rodriguez, Roberto
Rodriguez, Peter

Gunnery Sgt.
Jelks, Roderick J.

Master Gunnery Sgt.
Baker, Glen D.



THOUSANDS FLOOD NISHIKI RIVER WATER

Festival

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JOSH COX
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The beat of drums and the blast of fireworks reverberating from the Kintai Bridge could be heard for miles Saturday night.

Those who decided to trek to the Kintai Bridge area experienced a mixture of the local culture, fresh cuisine and an epic fireworks show during the 42nd Nishiki River Water Festival.

The festival, held along the banks of the Nishiki River, attracted thousands of local Japanese citizens, area visitors and service members alike.

The day's events included a children's treasure hunt, Taiko drum performance and the highly anticipated fireworks show. In an awesome display, vibrant fireworks burst in the sky for more than an hour.

Numerous vendors prepared

various delicacies along the river's banks, creating a haze of aromas over the entire area.

One such vendor offered grilled fish and squid on a stick, while others prepared items like chicken kabobs and colorful snow-cones.

The festival is one of many unique events held in the Kintai area every year.

During a few select weeks in March, cherry blossoms bloom in the city, and the view around the Kintai area is very popular among visitors and locals.

Throughout the weeks, thousands line the river banks celebrating the unique season with picnics, Iwakuni Castle excursions and pick-up games of soccer. In April, the annual Kintai-kyo Festival is held in Kikko Park, featuring the Daimyo Procession, a parade of Iwakuni residents dressed in traditional Japanese costumes and kimono.



(Right) Fireworks ignite the evening sky over the Nishiki River during the festival Saturday. The vibrant fireworks blasted in the sky for more than an hour. (Below) A Taiko drum performance captivates a massive crowd just before anticipated fireworks storm the night sky. The festival, held along the banks of the Nishiki River, attracted thousands of local Japanese citizens and service members alike, and is just one of many unique events held in the Kintai area every year.



Two young women in Yukata watch fireworks illuminate the night sky over the Nishiki River Saturday. Those who decided to trek to the Kintai Bridge area experienced a mixture of the local culture, fresh cuisine and an epic fireworks show during the 42nd Nishiki River Water Festival.



(Left) The Nishiki River Water Festival featured food vendors offering an array of snacks like fish and chicken kabobs. Numerous vendors showcased their various delicacies along the river's banks, creating a haze of aromas over the entire area.



A massive crowd invades the Kintai area in Iwakuni City during the Nishiki River Water Festival Saturday. The day's events included a children's treasure hunt, live music performances and the highly anticipated fireworks show.



A vendor at the Nishiki River Water Festival takes an order for flame-grilled kabobs Saturday. A massive line of tents offered a variety of unique snacks, desserts and beverages for every taste.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Wolfpack Motor T uses team effort to complete logpacks



NINEWA PROVINCE, Iraq — Light armored vehicle crewmen with Task Force 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, fill their LAV with bottled water supplied by motor transport Marines during a logistics movement, or logpack, July 11, in Iraq's Ninewa province. Logpacks are meant to supply companies operating throughout the battalion's area of operations who aren't able to supply themselves due to mission requirements.

SGT. ERIC C. SCHWARTZ
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 8

NINEWA PROVINCE, Iraq — Whenever Marines are away from any forward operating base, there are others who work to keep them fed, fully clad and their vehicles supplied with parts to keep them on the move. This arduous but important task is completed by Marines who know as long as their Marines need supplies, there is no distance they can't cover to bring the much needed items to those Marines who need them most. Marines with the motor transport section, Headquarters and Service Company, Task Force 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, constantly rotate through logistics movements, or "logpacks," bringing needed supplies to companies operating throughout the battalion's area of operations.

"Our main job is to bring supplies to the line companies," said Sgt. Evangelos Chimonas, a convoy commander with the motor transport section. "They have no other way to get supplies, and we will bring anything they can think of to them." Chimonas' Marines are a mix of different military occupational specialties ranging from motor transport operators to infantrymen. They each use their unique skill sets to successfully complete their logistics runs. "I set up communication throughout the logpack," said

Pfc. Kyle Darnell, a radio operator with the motor transport section. "I'm just a radio operator, but being out here, I've learned about so many different MOSs." Darnell is tasked to make sure communication is secure and running at all times while the convoy is on the road. But when he's done loading communication frequencies into the vehicles, he helps out with everything else. "I help out loading the trucks and changing tires," Darnell said. "Basically anything that the logpack needs help with outside of my MOS, I help complete." This group effort is what gets the job done. Chimonas has had to let go of a handful of Marines due to injuries or family emergencies back home. No matter the situation, the rest of his Marines are always standing by, ready to fill any empty seats. "I like helping out my fellow Marines," Darnell said. "A little bit of help makes everyone's lives easier." Although everyone helps out where they can, there is one Marine who is solely responsible for making sure everything is loaded properly. He is the loadmaster. "I make sure everything that is requested from the company's list is put onto the trucks," said Cpl. Giovanni Serna,

convoys moving out to the line companies, they are being checked for maintenance issues so they are fully operational when needed. "When I'm not on a log run, I'm making sure our vehicles have proper preventative maintenance," said Lance Cpl. Zackery Glasen, the line noncommissioned officer and turret gunner with the motor transport section. The main task of a logpack is supplying the line companies. But they must also protect themselves while on the road, looking for improvised explosive devices or any possible ambushes. Lance Cpl. Wilson Vicenteorellana, a turret gunner and motor transport operator with the motor transport section, said that he takes his job as a "guardian angel" seriously. A guardian angel plays an important role in the safety and security of Marines who are preoccupied with other duties. They provide overwatch, ensuring that others can focus on the task-at-hand, knowing a fellow Marine is watching over their shoulder, warding off any would be attackers. "It's one of those jobs that makes you feel good about yourself," Vicenteorellana said. "You are protecting everyone and you have to watch out for everything." Chimonas' Marines work together to complete the long logpacks, making sure the vehicles are ready, supplies are correct, communication channels are open and the convoy is being protected. Their combined efforts ensure supplies are brought out to Marines on the front lines, no matter what time of day or the distance traveled.



NINEWA PROVINCE, Iraq — A light armored vehicle with Task Force 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, is being guided along a supply path in the early morning hours July 11, 2009, in Iraq's Ninewa province.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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.

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.jpnpfec@ctcd.edu.

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. The contractor's gate will remain open all night and residents can expect a steady flow of concrete trucks through the gate. Construction of this portion of the taxiways is estimated to be completed in late October.

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.

Sports Physicals
If your child will need a sports physical for next school year, please call 253-3445 to schedule an appointment. The clinic cannot guarantee your child's sports physical will be completed by the time their sport begins if appointments are not made until after the school year begins.

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

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 Building. 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.

Survival Japanese Class
The Japanese American Society began a very basic Japanese course noon – 1 p.m. Thursday at the Japanese American Society Office, Building 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.

Academic Advisor Visit
University of Maryland University College academic advisors are scheduled to visit the station Mon. — Wed..

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 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.

Teen Pool Party and BBQ
Come hang out with other Iwakuni teens at the Waterworks Pool on Wednesday, Aug 12. If you're in high school or middle school then you're invited. The fun starts at noon and continues through the night. A great chance to mingle. Best of all, it's free! Look for the Club Beyond logo at the pavilion by the pool. For more information, call the chapel at 253-3371 or John at 080-4177-2060.

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
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Latter Day Saints

Weekdays	6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities
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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 at 253-5183 or potwic@gmail.com.

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



"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.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, August 7, 2009
7 p.m. Year One (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. My Life in Ruins (PG-13)
Premier

Saturday, August 8, 2009
1 p.m. Up (PG)
Last Showing
4 p.m. My Life in Ruins (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Hangover (R)
10 p.m. Year One (PG-13)

Sunday, August 9, 2009
1 p.m. Imagine That (PG)
4 p.m. Year One (PG-13)
7 p.m. My Life in Ruins (PG-13)

Monday, August 10, 2009
7 p.m. My Life in Ruins (PG-13)

Tuesday, August 11, 2009
7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half-Blooded Prince (PG)

Wednesday, August 12, 2009
1 p.m. Up (PG)
7 p.m. Drag Me to Hell (R)
Last Showing

Thursday, August 13, 2009
7 p.m. Year One (PG-13)

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

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1999 Honda Logo
Silver with 67,914 kilometers (42,106 miles). JCI good until November 2010. In excellent condition. \$1400 OBO. For more information, call 090-604-69189.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Manhattan clam chowder, chicken and rice soup, sauerbraten, jerked style chicken, steamed rice, oven browned potatoes, french fried okra, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, coconut raisin cookies, double layer almond cake, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday
Beef noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, Swiss steak w/gravy, Szechwan chicken, O'Brien potatoes, noodles Jefferson, French fried cauliflower, broccoli parmesan, brown gravy, cheese biscuit, three bean salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake, buttercream frosting
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday
Tomato noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, sweet & sour pork, yakisoba (hamburger), pork fried rice, brussels sprouts, corn, whole kernel, dinner rolls, spring salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, sweet potato pie, whipped topping, coconut cake
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday
Minestrone soup, cream of broccoli soup, fried chicken, beef stoganoff, buttered pasta, candied sweet potatoes, okra and tomato gumbo, green bean southern style, chicken gravy, cheese biscuits, potato salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, double layer devil's food cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, whipped topping, oatmeal raisin cookie
Specialty Bar: Deli Sandwich

Friday
Beef barley soup, Spanish soup, lemon baked fish, El rancho stew, steamed rice, potatoes au gratin, cauliflower combo, black eyed peas, dinner rolls, brown gravy, mixed fruit, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, (apple/ cherry) turnovers, bread pudding, crisp toffee bars, whipped topping, chocolate pudding
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

1999 Toyota Spacio
Silver with a gray interior, JCI until March 2011, new CD player, in excellent condition. Asking \$3300 . For more information, call (work) 253-3469, (cell) 080-3705-2974.

Miscellaneous

White wooden baby crib
Asking \$60. For more information call (cell) 090-8406-8890 or (home) 253-2031

Light color wooden toddler bed
Asking \$40. For more information call (cell) 090-8406-8890 or (home) 253-2031

Crib Mattress
Asking \$25. For more information call (cell) 090-8406-8890 or (home) 253-2031

Baby bjorn city black w/cover
Asking \$50. For more information call (cell) 090-8406-8890 or (home) 253-2031

Pink/Purple polka dot boppy
Asking \$10. For more information call (cell)



Community members listen as Belinda Pugh, head librarian at the Station Library, announces ticket numbers for a raffle during the closing ceremony of the 2009 "Be Creative" Summer Reading Program at the Crossroads pavilion here July 28. T-shirts, school supplies and portable DVD players were among the prizes given away during the closing ceremony. The ceremony included booths offering face painting, food and caricature drawings open to all participants of the summer reading program. The program started June 23 and was open to children ages 5 to 12 who set a goal to read nearly 25 hours during the summer. Program participants met every Tuesday at 10 a.m. to read together and participate in various art and craft projects designed to encourage children to use their imagination and be more expressive. "It generated a lot of interest in reading for the summer and that was our primary goal, to keep the kids reading," said Pugh. Approximately 120 children signed up for the summer reading program of which 50 accomplished their goal of reading 25 hours and received a free T-shirt as their prize. Plans are already being made for next year's summer reading program. Pugh said next year's theme is expected to be "At the Beach" with various projects concentrating on sea and ocean life. "I just want to encourage everybody to use the library," said Pugh. "It is absolutely the best resource that any of the Marines and their families have here on the base. Everything is free and everything is here for them to ensure they have something to do here at Iwakuni."

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, Building 1, Room 216.

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

090-8406-8890 or (home) 253-2031

Shopping cart cover
Asking \$15. For more information call (cell) 090-8406-8890 or (home) 253-2031

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 upon request. For more information, stop by the NMCRS or call 253-5311, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mon. — Fri.

SPORTS

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH, AUGUST 7, 2009



Lance Cpl. Blake Guyer, a 10th Frame team member, aims for a strike during the championship rounds of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Bowling League Tournament at the Strike Zone here July 28. The week before the final games, 10th Frame was ranked ninth in the overall standings.

MALS-12 bowls up fun, comaraderie at Strike Zone

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marines competed in a championship bowling league tournament at the Strike Zone here July 28.

Approximately 22 Marines, split into 11 teams, competed in the morale-building event.

"From what I understand, this is the first time that a unit has sponsored a bowling league," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson, MALS-12 sergeant major.

It's great both for camaraderie and motivation, he added.

Participation in the bowling league was open to all MALS-12 personnel.

Patterson said he enjoyed watching how the various MALS-12 departments gathered for a good time and described their coming together like the fingers of a hand curling to make a strong fist.

"It makes our team that much stronger," said Patterson.

Cpl. Carlos Chen, a MALS-12 headquarters operations clerk, was responsible for organizing the league.

"I love to see Marines have fun," said Chen. "That's the main reason why I started this."

The MALS-12 bowling league met at the Strike Zone bi-weekly during lunch for nearly 23 weeks.

When MALS-12 came to play, the Strike Zone came alive with the sounds of Marines

laughing and jeering over the roar and explosion of bowling balls barreling down their lanes ramming into bowling pins.

Scenes of Marines laughing, shaking hands and high-fiving each other could be



Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marines and civilian contractors pose for a group picture before kicking off the final MALS-12 Bowling League game at the Strike Zone here July 28. The bowling league members played during lunch twice a week for approximately 23 weeks at the bowling center before playing the championship games.

seen all across the bowling center as some competitors managed a strike.

"Camaraderie was the main focus at all times," said Chen.

Several Marines joined the league to be a part of the friendship the event inspired.

"I just wanted to come out here have fun and meet new people," said Pfc. Nicholas

Bartholomew, an event participant and a Split Happens team member. "I met about 12 different people I've never met before in my life, and now I can go around and talk to them about anything."

On the last day of the games July 28, the 23 weeks of competition were tallied up to determine who the winners of the bowling league were.

After the numbers were added, Split Happens managed to climb up from seventh place to first with 54 wins.

Old School came in second with 53 wins and Starvin' for Tomorrow came in third with 52.

Bartholomew said he was surprised his team won first place because he was doing so badly in the beginning.

"A few weeks ago I changed up all my style," said Bartholomew. "Everything just kind of came together."

Most Marines who participated in the bowling league considered the competition a great success.

"I asked for feedback quite a few times and these Marines, they loved it," said Chen.

"How often do you get to talk trash to a staff sergeant or a gunny while bowling against them?" he added.

Coming off the success of the MALS-12 Bowling League, plans are being made to make a new league to include members from all squadrons aboard the station.

"I'm looking for maximum participation next time," said Chen. "533, 242, all the squadrons on base. Hopefully a lot of Marines will see this as an opportunity to do something — come out and have fun."



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Bryan Tanner, an outfielder and catcher, steps in to crank the ball down the field at the main softball field here July 30. In order to join Team Iwakuni athletes had to tryout and survive multiple cuts. In the end only 15 players will make it to Okinawa to compete in the Pacific Far East Softball Tournament.

Marines swing, hit, run distance to Okinawa

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Intramural Softball season is over, so why is there still shouting and yelling coming from across the softball field? Get closer and see a full-fledged team dashing, diving and swinging across home plate. The players seem to be having fun, but don't be mistaken by their smiles, because this team takes the game extremely serious. The notes, the pep talks and the coaching can only mean one thing; this team is preparing for something, but what?

A team of local Marines will be attending the Pacific Far East Softball Tournament in Okinawa, Aug. 8-16.

"It's like the All Stars," said Michael Wilder, the head coach for Team Iwakuni. "We are going to compete against the best baseball players and teams from across the Far East."

Wilder himself has played all-Marine softball for 30 years. His long relationship with the sport brings Team Iwakuni a level of expertise and insight he hopes will help keep the players on track.

"This is a very young team," said Wilder. "Which is better for me because oftentimes with older

players it's harder to change some of their bad habits. With younger players I can easily correct most of their mistakes."

Although the players are young, most of them have been playing since childhood.

"I first started playing baseball when I was 5," said Jonathan Paz, Team Iwakuni player.

Before Paz could play for Team Iwakuni, he first had to tryout and make it past a series of several cuts.

When the Intramural Softball season was over, an e-mail went out looking for players.

"Once the team came together, we instantly started working well with one another," said Paz. "During the intramural season we were playing against each other, and now we're playing as one."

Since the team started nearly three months ago, they have been practicing. In the same amount of time nearly half the players who started with the team were cut. With one week left before the tournament, an additional cut was still to be made, bringing the team to a total of 15.

"Whether they were cut or not, they still had a chance to play and train with a great baseball player," said Rodney L. Buentello in reference to Wilder.

Over the course of the training

Wilder has taken time to instill his key softball philosophies.

"From the very beginning I have told them to play smart," said Wilder. He encouraged them to play within their means.

"If a player doesn't normally hit home runs then I'm not going to push them to try and hit homeruns," said Wilder. "In this case it is better to focus on the players' strengths than their weaknesses."

In the days leading up to the event, the team played make-shift teams made up of Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office and Ordnance.

Although Team Iwakuni dominated during the practice games, the team's players are not getting over confident anytime soon. They already know the competition down in Okinawa will be a lot harder.

"There will be tough competition every day," said Paz. "So we are going to have to bring our 'A' game all weeklong."

Wilder is confident as long as the team continues to work off each other and not make simple mental errors, they will go above and beyond previous years.

"It has been 10 years since we brought home first place," said

Wilder. "I'm confident that this is a team that can do it."

Most importantly, Wilder pointed out all the amazing experiences and opportunities Marines can receive from playing sports in the Marine Corps.

Whether the team wins or loses they still had the opportunity to leave work for a week and enjoy a game they love.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Players of Team Iwakuni run in from the outfield after the opponents strike out during a practice game at the main field here July 30. In the days leading up to the Pacific Far East Softball Tournament, Team Iwakuni played make-shift teams made up of Marines from across the station.