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FEATURE

SPORTS

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 34, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Summer Music Festival gets children movin'



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Kristen Scott demonstrates her dance skills at a dance competition conducted by the Chicago Hot Rox Dancers during the Summer Music Festival at Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. Scott's diva dance moves earned her loud cheers from the audience as she jived her way into the finals. See the full story on pages 6 and 7.

## Friendship exchange: Sign-up before time runs out

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau in conjunction with Iwakuni City, the Municipal Board of Education and the station are co-sponsoring a U.S.-Japan Friendship Exchange in November and are asking local residents interested in participating to fill out a sign-up sheet at the Public Affairs Office here no later than Sept. 24.

Locals interested in signing up can call 253-5551 or come by Building 1 Room 216 to fill out a sign-up sheet.

The Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau has organized and scheduled the event for Nov. 21 to provide a good opportunity for local Japanese and American residents to develop long lasting relationships through art-and-craft projects, games, and other events and activities.

Station and local Japanese

SEE **FRIENDSHIP** ON PAGE 3



**Team Iwakuni  
strikes again**

**See page 12**

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Team Iwakuni pitcher Clinton Massengale steps into a monster swing at the 2009 Japanese and American Modified Fast Pitch Softball Tournament held at the Penny Lake softball fields here Aug. 29.

## Sexual assault: It can happen to anyone

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Gen. James T. Conway, U.S. Marine Corps commandant, sent out White Letter 02-09 Aug. 25 to all Marine Corps commanding generals, commanding officers and all officers-in-charge, in which he addresses the issue of sexual assault in the Marine Corps.

Within the letter, Conway states prevention is the crucial step to defeating sexual assault. The letter also addresses misconceptions Marines might have about the crime and acts connected with sexual assault.

With the entire Marine Corps

taking a look at itself regarding the issue, service members here can't fail to see it as a problem aboard the air station.

"It happens more often than people think," said LaNita Perkins, acting station victim advocate. "I have volunteer victim advocates and we get called regularly on sexual assaults. It's happening."

It's important Marines and sailors are aware sexual assault does happen here so they can better prepare in the event they find themselves in a situation that can lead to sexual assault, Perkins said.

The volunteer victim advocates

SEE **ASSAULT** ON PAGE 3





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# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## ‘Learning to fly’

LT. ROBERT E. MILLS  
STATION CHAPLAIN

Unlike most of the aviators here at Iwakuni, I learned to fly the civilian way.

I started taking occasional lessons whenever I could scrape together enough money to do it when I was 16 years old.

Ever since I was a very little kid, I wanted to be able to fly.

I plotted and planned, and then finally was able to start the lessons.

With my Uncle Charlie as my first instructor, I learned many lessons of life in the cramped cockpits of various Cessnas and Pipers.

One of first lessons was to make small corrections.

Uncle Charlie would say, "Bobby, the airplane won't bite you. You don't have to manhandle it; make your corrections coordinated and subtle. Use your hands and feet together."

Now I know some of you Hornet pilots are laughing about that last one, but in a Cessna 150 you actually do have to use the rudder.

The lesson I learned, apart

from coordinated flight, was life demands nuance.

You don't always have to make a huge change in what you are doing.

Many times just a slight adjustment in the way you are dealing with your family or spouse can bring large rewards.

When he was teaching me how to make turns, I learned another critical lesson.

I had been working really hard to roll out on the correct heading after a turn.

After several failed attempts, I finally nailed it and rolled out exactly on the correct heading, only to smugly look across the cockpit and see Uncle Charlie in the right seat with his arms folded across his chest saying, "You just lost 100 feet. You need to watch your attitude."

I learned life is complex with many moving parts, and I really had to watch my attitude all the time.

Just when I was tempted to be proud of myself in one area of life, something else might slip out of adjustment.

Finally came the great day when I soloed (flew the airplane all by myself).

I had been working on flying correct traffic patterns around the airport, talking properly on

the radio, paying attention to what the other traffic was doing, maintaining the proper altitude, and making sure my airspeed was correct on final approach so my landings would be safe.

I can remember taxiing out to the runway, making all the proper announcements, and then taking a big deep breath.

I looked in the right seat to ensure I was actually alone before I pushed the throttle in and all 100 horsepower began to propel me down the runway.

I took off and landed three times by myself before that day's lesson was over, and did it ever feel great!

I had found something I could do that very few others could do — and I was doing it well.

There was another lesson about life I learned on that November day in 1993: You can do incredible, powerful, fun things when you put forth the effort to learn and take the chance of failure.

Flying taught me a great deal about myself and my life.

I learned new skills, saw new and beautiful things, and experienced things only pilots and angels can see and experience.

Flying has been a great gift to me.

## Leadership: Experience is critical to understanding

GUNNERY SGT. JOSE  
PALOSCHAVEZ  
CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

Our 13th Commandant

of the Marine Corps, Gen. John A. Lejeune, defined leadership as "...the sum of those qualities of intellect, human understanding and moral character that enables a person to inspire and control a group of people successfully."

These three parts include intellect, human understanding and moral character. These three parts are common threads that enable Marines to inspire and influence other Marines successfully.

The first part of leadership every successful leader must have is intellect.

Intellect is "the property of mind that encompasses many related mental abilities, such as reason, plan, solve problems, think abstractly, and comprehend ideas and language."

From my personal experience, the great leaders that have come before our time were very intelligent. But how did these

great leaders attain intelligence?

Great leaders have attained intellect through their own individual experience.

I believe that intellect is attained through one's own personal as well as professional experience. There is no doubt in my mind the foundation of intellect is planted during development stages of life (growing up).

The Marine Corps allows these seeds of leadership to bloom during its only rite of passage, basic training.

Every Marine attains some form of intellect through individual experience.

Leadership is then continuously sustained at every level regardless of rank.

For example, on the enlisted side, leadership is sustained through our distinct professional military education: Lance Corporals Seminar, Corporals Course, Sergeants Course, Career Course, Advance Career Course, First Sergeant/Master Sergeant Seminar, and Sergeant Major/Master Gunnery Sergeant Seminar.

Other areas'

leadership is sustained through our individual formal military occupation specialty schools.

Thus, intellect and leadership are mostly established in a well-seasoned Marine.

The second part of leadership is human understanding. But what exactly is human understanding?

John Locke, an English philosopher, said "The mind of a newborn is a blank slate and all ideas are developed through experience."

Again, the argument can be made that human understanding is attained through experience.

A connection can be found through our basic training.

Most Marines' minds are blank and leadership is subsequently achieved through daily experiences. However, in order to be a successful leader, human understanding must be sustained throughout a Marine's career.

I have personally observed many great officers and staff noncommissioned

officers who have attained great human understanding.

This is evident in how Marines communicate and carry themselves.

Again, this is mostly found as they become seasoned officers and staff noncommissioned officers, respectively.

Through human understanding, great leaders are able to maintain a sincere connection with their subordinates by being patient, listening, interacting and taking time to know each Marine personally and professionally.

Take the necessary steps to not only know your Marines but to understand them too!

The third part of leadership is moral character. Moral character may be subject to someone's character based on virtue, fortitude, courage, loyalty, honesty or piety.

As mentioned earlier, leadership is achieved through experience, and this may further be extended to moral character too.

Our 31st Commandant, Gen.

SEE **LEADERSHIP** ON PAGE 9

# SARP in action to help, treat victims

ASSAULT FROM PAGE 1

group here reported many of the incidents aboard the station involved a group of service members going out in town drinking.

In the past, one service member within the group met another one through a mutual friend and they later found themselves in a situation where they needed help.

There have also been instances of senior enlisted members assaulting junior enlisted members and situations where service members were assaulted by people they believed to be their friends.

"Not everybody is your friend. You really have to trust someone in order to know they have your back. Take the time to know who you're out there with," said Perkins. "When something like this happens, it doesn't just affect that one person, it affects the whole unit. Now you have that tension and that whole situation that is bad for everyone coming and going."

One thing always reported as a constant factor in the assaults was alcohol.

Perkins named situational awareness of self and surroundings as one of the best ways to prevent sexual assault, and to keep track of what and how much you drink.

The buddy system with someone you absolutely trust was also named as a good way to prevent sexual assault.

"It's always a good idea to have someone that you can bounce decisions off of to get a different perspective, get a different vantage point of the situation," said Maj. Gerard Fontenot, installation sexual assault response coordinator. "It's a way to create better situational awareness if you're not out there alone. Part of what service members can do is to have someone that you go out with that you trust is going to take care of you and look out for you."

The command will continue to give all the training and classes as directed by the commandant, but it's up to the service members to look out for each other and implement the prevention techniques taught in those classes, Fontenot said.

The station victim advocates group encourages service members to think of prevention when they go out drinking, consider what can happen, and have a plan to prevent the worst from happening.

Fontenot said one of the biggest misconceptions service members have regarding sexual assault is the belief of it's "not going to happen to me."

Females have not been the only service members who have fallen victim to sexual assault.

Fontenot said the station had 10 reported assaults in 2008 with four of those being male on male.

"The most important thing that they (sexual assault victims) can know for their own personal recovery is that they are a victim of a crime," said Fontenot. "There is still the component of another person that decided to violate them."

If a person becomes a victim of sexual assault, he/she encouraged to report the assault to either a uniformed victim advocate, a sexual assault coordinator, a victim advocate, a chaplain or a healthcare provider to include dentists.

"Those five categories of people have the level of confidentiality in the sexual assault response program that allows that victim to report it, get the medical attention they need, get the mental health attention and care that they need, and to facilitate their recovery immediately and then have time to decide about involving law enforcement," said Fontenot.

Victims are encouraged to go to medical as soon as possible after an assault to get the necessary forensic evidence against their attacker.

After contacting medical and getting the necessary forensic evidence, victim can then decide whether he/she wants to file a restricted or unrestricted report against their attacker.

Victims who decide to file a restricted report have up to one year to file a claim against their offender.

Fontenot said victims who file a restricted report don't need to immediately worry about the social concerns of what their command would think of them or feelings of guilt.

With a restricted report, victims can take the necessary steps they need to recover both emotionally and physically before they decide to inform their command or law enforcement.

With an unrestricted report, the investigation against the offender is immediately underway and the command becomes involved, along with the Provost Marshal's Office.

"Unrestricted does not mean public," said Fontenot. "People on a need-to-know base will know about it. That information will be limited to the commanders, the investigators, and the lawyers. Victims need to be aware, whether they do a restricted or unrestricted (report), the intent of the (sexual assault response program) is to have a sensitivity to the victim's needs and that information is sensitive and will be treated with respect."

Anyone who falls victim to sexual assault is encouraged to call a station victim advocate at 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835 24 hours a day for help. All calls are confidential. Victims may also directly contact the installation sexual assault response coordinator at 080-1920-5177 for help or they may contact their unit uniformed victim advocate.

# Steps to protect other people's privacy, personal info.

GUNNERY SGT. JOSE PALOSCHAVEZ  
STATION OPERATIONS  
SECURITY OFFICER

This article is intended as a reminder of how critical it is to apply one simple step before sending an e-mail to a large group.

This simple step applies to sending out e-mails in both a government and personal environment. So what is this simple step?

Are you familiar with the term blind carbon copy aka, Bcc?

Blind carbon copy is a simple practice of sending a message to multiple recipients in such a way that conceals individual e-mail addresses from the complete list of recipients. How does it accomplish this?

Blind carbon copy accomplishes this by hiding all the recipients' addresses so that they are not displayed.

Using blind carbon copy ultimately protects recipients' addresses from being spread to

others.

How many times has your e-mail address been listed in a distribution list?

What about the time some hit the reply to all to the same e-mail?

Sound familiar?

This headache could have been easily prevented ... had the original sender applied the Bcc step prior to hitting the send button.

In addition to protecting all the recipients' addresses, Bcc also eliminates unnecessary text from the original e-mail.

Have you ever received an e-mail in which the first page listed the recipients' addresses? The recipients in many cases have to scroll and continue to scroll down the page to find the actual message.

The unnecessary text also increases the speed at which e-mail is received or sent. This makes it easier for the computer and network to download and process the e-mail message at a faster rate.

So, if you plan on sending e-mails such as newsletters, actions, flyers, general announcements, events, etc., think of the one simple step of using blind carbon copy before hitting the send button.

Applying this simple step also enhances the station's operations security program.

In addition, you will also protect all the recipients' privacy and personal information too.

Oh, don't forget to sign and encrypt all e-mails containing any personal identifiable information using Department of Defense approved certificates.

Examples include but are not limited to: name, Social Security Number, date of birth, home address, home phone number, home e-mail address, fingerprint, photograph, medical information and work performance information.

Encrypt it. Secure it. Shred it. Protect it. It's our duty!

## Get Cultured: Sign-up ends Sept. 24

FRIENDSHIP FROM PAGE 1

children can also register to meet Nov. 7 before the actual friendship exchange to make Rendakos, or Japanese multi-layered kites, and Christmas wreaths together.

Children will have time to play and fly the kites and present the Christmas wreaths to Kawashimo Elementary School as gifts on Nov. 21.

A shuttle bus will be made available to participants going to and from the air station and the school.

On the actual day of the exchange slated for Nov. 21, American and Japanese parents can cook together with ingredients and cooking utensils provided by the organizers.

American fathers will be able to teach their hotdog cooking skills to Japanese fathers while their children play in bounce houses, basketball and other games together.

A Japanese chef will be on hand to teach American mothers how to prepare a local delicacy.

Families will be able to participate in bun-biting races, tugs-of-war, kickball games and other activities.

The event is scheduled to take place on the Northside field here and will be moved to a nearby indoor facility in the event of rain.

The Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau and the Japanese Ministry of Defense believe deepening the bilateral understanding between the status of forces agreement personnel and local residents around the station is important and want to welcome everyone to sign up for the fun.



# Island hop II: More seats, open to more



Gunnery Sgt. Rodney Buentello stands at the ready position waiting for his target to appear in the indoor small arms range here Friday. Buentello took second place in the shooting competition finishing four points behind Cpl. Justin Hudnall, a Provost Marshall's Office military police officer.

A Marine sites in on his target during the rapid fire portion of the shooting competition held in the indoor small arms range here Sept. 4. The shooting competition was the second of four events held to win one of five seats aboard a C-12 for a chance to go on a South Pacific island hopping adventure. Cpl. Justin Hudnall, a Provost Marshall's Office military police officer, won the competition leaving only two seats up for grabs.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron are scheduled to embark on another South Pacific trip of a lifetime Sunday.

H&HS commanding officer Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse has set forth a new set of challenges for all Marines and sailors of H&HS to earn one of five seats on a four-day island hopping expedition to commemorate the anniversary of the Peleliu landing, which occurred during the Guadalcanal campaigns.

The islands to be visited during this second island hopping trip are Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima, Saipan, Peleliu, and Guam.

“Virtually the same professional military education classes given in the first trip will be given on every island,” said Ardesse. “They were so successful and so informative. The knowledge that was gained will be very similar.”

As of Tuesday, three of the seats were filled. Sgt. Carrie White, a Provost Marshall's Office physical security crime prevention specialist, was afforded the first seat by Ardesse during an award and promotion ceremony held at the parade deck in front of Building 1.

“Sgt. White had the highest total score of all three events of the last Bring Out Your Champions Competition,” said Ardesse. “She finished with the highest combined total of the people who didn't get to go.”

The second seat was won by Lance Cpl. Daniel Negrete, an Armed Forces Network combat correspondent, who won the first competition: a 750-meter swim followed by a Navy-Marine Corps knowledge test.

“I received word from Gunnery Sgt. Ruby about the competition, I only had the afternoon to prepare and I knew there was nothing to do but relax and get mentally prepared for it,” said Negrete.

The third seat was won by Cpl. Justin Hudnall, a PMO military police officer, after winning a marksmanship competition and a knowledge test held at the indoor small arms range here Friday.

“I was on duty when Lt. Col. Ardesse informed me of it,” said Hudnall. “I was confident on shooting, but was worried about the knowledge.”

The first island hopping trip was only open to career Marines and there was an outcry from so many first-term Marines and sailors Ardesse decided to open this competition to everybody.

“The longer you stay in the Marine Corps, the more you truly appreciate our heritage of winning battles, making Marines, and those who have gone before us,” said Ardesse.

The second trip is like the first trip. Ardesse set forth criteria for Marines and sailors to meet in order to compete in the events, but this trip is open to all Marines and sailors, not just career Marines.

Ardesse required Marines and sailors to be up to date medically, dentally and military education complete.

As well, vying competitors had to have a first class physical fitness test for their age group and a first class combat fitness test, or physical readiness test for sailors.

“This competition is very inclusive vice exclusive because the prerequisites encompass a large group,” said Ardesse. “I want everybody to come out; I wish the whole squadron was out there.”

It has been called a trip of a lifetime, but it is more than that for some Marines.

Some Marines have not had grueling physical challenges like these since boot camp and are eager to show off their combat readiness.

“It felt great to be a winner, but it feels greater to know we have a commanding officer who does these kinds of trips for his Marines so other Marines can have this opportunity as well,” said Negrete.

# MP attempts wreck-less driving

SGT. ROBERT DURHAM  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Don't let this man's duty persona fool you. He is a speed demon.

During the workweek, you can find Cpl. Greg Fitts, training noncommissioned officer for the Provost Marshal's Office here, sitting at a desk ensuring the air station's military police are well versed in law and letter of the regulations that must be enforced here.

This newly-wed, father-to-be makes sure his Marines know what they're talking about when it comes to law enforcement.

If his Marines witness you driving faster than the posted speed limit, or driving in an unsafe manner, they will no doubt be on you in a heartbeat to ensure you are held accountable.

But in a remote area outside of Kuga, Japan, you can find Fitts tearing across pavement at high speeds, turning hard to correct his vehicle's momentum moments before nearly smashing sideways into a tire wall.



SGT. ROBERT DURHAM

Cpl. Greg Fitts, training noncommissioned officer for the Provost Marshal's office here, begins his drift before negotiating an upcoming turn at Barefoot Heaven Circuit in Kuga, Japan Sep. 5. Fitts has been drift racing for nearly two years. Drift racing is a motor sport that involves the driver deliberately over steering his vehicle while maintaining strong control during turns. Cpl. Fitts wears several pieces of personal protective equipment while racing.

Fitts if they heard him talk about drifting.

The world of drifting has its own language and lingo that took him a long time to learn.

One thing Cpl. Fitts has as a direct result of his racing — fans.

On the side of the track are at least a dozen other Marines cheering their friend on.

Sometimes his white knuckled spectators can be caught gasping in fear as Fitts appears to right his vehicle amidst a cloud of dust in the last instant before nearly flying off the track.

Some of them were racers before coming to Japan.

“I didn't used to be much of a track person as a civilian,” said Pfc. Sammy Anderson, a military policeman with PMO.

“I used to do my racing on the streets,” said Anderson, who confessed his days of illegal races are over.

“You get caught doing this stuff outside of here (a track) and you are going to jail. You're losing your license, and where I'm from, they'll probably take your car,” he said.

For the curious who can front the dough, the skills required for the potential drift racer are not exactly taught, they are acquired from time spent getting dizzy.

Wannabe drifters must spend most of their time behind the wheel of their highly modified vehicle going around in circles repeatedly. There is a cone new drivers must drift around without running it over.

“You have to successfully negotiate the cone so many times before they'll let you take the track,” Fitts said. “There really

isn't any teaching involved. You have to learn how to do it yourself because each car is different.”

The barefoot track has many opportunities for a driver to get the hang of drift racing.

“This track is great for beginners,” said Fitts. “They have the burnout circle here so you can learn how your car handles,” said Fitts.

The language barrier isn't very conducive to a great learning environment. Most of the skilled Japanese drift racers don't speak much English, and most of the Americans don't speak much Japanese. This doesn't affect the racers' camaraderie though.

“The Japanese love us being out here. We are all a tight community,” said Fitts. “We may not understand each other's words but when it comes to this we understand each other perfectly.”

Though there aren't very many long conversations between the Japanese and Americans, their teamwork is easily seen anytime someone needs help.

“One of the nice things out here is if anything happens on the track, everyone stops what they're doing and helps you,” said Fitts. “One time I broke a radiator hose and everyone scrambled to get me the parts I needed to get back in the race,” he said.

Anytime Greg Fitts is out here, Mrs. Fitts isn't far away.

His wife Rebekah is 6-months pregnant and you can find her helping her husband change tires, turning a wrench, or preparing the car to hit the

track.

It is partly because of this hobby their relationship began.

“She started coming out here and we both developed a love for this and kind of bonded from it,” said Fitts.

If you compare Greg Fitts to his local national peers, there are several differences that you will find between him and his competition.

Many of the Japanese racers have little to no safety equipment.

Fitts not only has a roll cage built into his vehicle but also, wears a fireproof flight suit and a fully enclosed helmet. For him, safety is a huge priority.

“Out here at the track there really is no regulation, but I wear the fire suit, the shoes, the helmet. I did my research before I started this,” Fitts said.

“There's no Marine Corps order for it but we did make an arrangement with the safety office,” said Fitts.

Spending any time on the track with him makes one realize this man doesn't take safety seriously because he is told to; he does it because he knows from experience.

“I have wrecked a couple of times out here and it scared the crap out of me, so even if we didn't have an arrangement I would still wear it,” said Fitts.

So one of the biggest questions with the expense, danger, smoke and noise is, why do it?

“I love it,” Fitts said. “It's like being in a roller coaster you can control.”



# Summer Music Festival

Dylan Lyman and Thomas Saunders rock out in front of the bounce houses provided by Marine Corps Community Services during the Summer Music Festival at Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. Lyman said his favorite part of the festival was hanging out with his buddies.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Children get low at the limbo competition conducted by the Chicago Hot Rox Dancers during the Summer Music Festival at Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Lance Cpl. Justin Wiemers busts a move during a dance competition conducted by the Chicago Hot Rox Dancers during the Summer Music Festival at Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

The Chicago Hot Rox Dancers perform a 20-minute teaser of their 45-minute main show during the Summer Music Festival at Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. Many musical acts performed, but the Chicago Hot Rox Dancers drew the largest crowd. The Chicago Hot Rox Dancers conducted a dance clinic at the IronWorks Gym here Tuesday. The clinic was free and open to dancers of all ages.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Three finalists square off at a dance competition conducted by the Chicago Hot Rox Dancers during the Summer Music Festival at Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. The dance competition winner was decided by cheers from the audience.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Makenna, Walker and Cole Minnich eat watermelon provided by Marine Corps Community Services during the Summer Music Festival at Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. Hamburgers, french fries, cotton candy and snow cones were on-hand throughout the entire festival.

## Children turn it up at concert

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

For the students at Mathew C. Perry Elementary and High School, summer ended the day the fall semester began, but for one day the children took to the golf course and partied like it was the first day of summer vacation.

On Saturday, Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni hosted the Summer Music Festival at the Torii Pines Golf Course here.

The event was not exclusive to children; both service members and civilians of all ages attended the event, but it was the children who seemed to know how to get down and party.

"I always assumed the Marines were the ones who knew how to get the party started, but clearly I was wrong; it is definitely the young ones who know how to get things jumping," said Amanda Etter, who attended the event with her daughter and friends. "If you just take a look around, you can see kids chowing down on cotton candy, playing in the jumpers, dancing to the music, and just having a good time being together. I have to hand it to the kids. They really know how to non-stop rock out."

Everyone in attendance seemed to be having a good time, but why was it the children who were having the most fun? What was the secret to these children's

awe-inspiring partying skills?

"The secret is cotton candy," said Cheyenne Wichner, an M.C. Perry High School seventh-grader, who offered the magical key to rocking out.

"The sugar and our youth is what keeps us going," said Wichner, bursting into laughter. "If the Marines ever challenged the kids to see who could have more fun, the kids would definitely win, hands down."

The only competition that ensued between the children and Marines was a dance-off orchestrated by the Summer Music Festival's headlining act, the Chicago Hot Rox Dancers.

Only one Marine had the nerve to compete against the heard of footloose children. The lone Marine was good, but he had no chance against the children who quickly demonstrated they could pop and lock like no one's business.

"The children were so much fun and had so much energy that they inspired us to completely change the second half of our show to include them," said Kim Brancamp, the coach and lead performer of the Hot Rox Dancers.

As the sun set, the concert continued to jam on along with the children. They came, they conquered, they rocked the house harder than anyone else.

"This was crazy cool and crazy fun," said Wichner. "All my friends and I had a great time. I would definitely come back and do this again."



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Service members and civilians stake their claim on the lawn at Torii Pines Golf Course during the Summer Music Festival Saturday. Die-hard concert goers arrived early to the festival to set up their blankets and beach chairs.



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Hunting Taliban: Gaining small victories without fight

GUNNERY SGT. CHRIS W. COX  
REGIMENTAL COMBAT  
TEAM 3

**KHOUSARI AHBAD, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** — For the Marines of Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, hunting the Taliban takes patience and flexibility. Even on days when they don't get what they expect, being seen and speaking with the locals is a small victory.

On Aug. 25, the Marines from 1st Platoon began their day with the intent of looking for a fight. A patrol, like any of the countless ones they've undertaken since their arrival here, but based on a guess insurgents might try to ambush them. With that knowledge, the Marines prepared themselves to hit back. A few days earlier, the Taliban had critically injured a child trying to emplace a hasty improvides explosiv device for them during a similar morning patrol. This day, despite their expectations, the Taliban didn't show themselves where the Marines expected them, and probably for a good reason.

"They shot themselves in the foot in that village," said 1st Platoon commander 1st Lt. Patrick O'Shea. "I think if they were to show up there, the villagers would kill them." In this war, where the main focus is the well-being of the local people, these young men have a difficult job that is not usually associated with the hard-hitting Corps. Tactical restraint is the name of the game. "The fighting mentality is always going to be in your mind. You have to put that to the side," said 23-year-old team leader Cpl. Joseph M. Misek, from Salem, Ore. "Like today, we went out expecting a fight," he said. "We're trained enough to be able to



KHOUSARI AHBAD, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Squad Automatic Weapon gunner Lance Cpl. Alex Torres from C. Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, watches for threatening activity during a patrol halt Aug. 25.

go from one way of doing business to another. Now it's just habit for us." These Marines have been living in this agricultural district since early July. For two weeks after their insertion, they lived in only what they had carried with them. Then combat engineers built a berm around a small, secure area they could call home. Today, they live in accommodations they've mostly built for themselves, using camouflage nets and ponchos to create shade from the 120-degree heat and humidity. It's the only respite after a four- to six-mile foot patrol with at least 70 pounds of gear riding on their shoulders and back. Despite the enemy presence, however, most of these patrols are simply an opportunity to interact with the locals. "Before it was a pretty new thing for them — they hadn't seen Marines before," Misek explained. "Now, they're more willing to talk with us, to converse with us. Kids aren't afraid to talk with us. "We're showing the good side of the Marine Corps," he said. "We're more than just security." One sure method to gauge how welcome they've become in this society that values its privacy is the way the children approach the Marines as they hike through towns and cornfields. Their helmets, bullet-proof vests and sunglasses make them look alien to the children who have never been past the edge of their village, but they approach the riflemen without fear. "When we first landed they were hesitant because it was the first time they had seen U.S. troops," said squad automatic weapon gunner Lance Cpl. Alex Torres from Farmersville, Calif. "You could tell they wanted to talk to us. They just needed that first kid to go out and ask us, and the rest just followed along." Except for the experienced among them, this is not what these young Marines expected to see coming to this country that has seen consistent conflict for more than 30 years. It's a challenging mission for the Marines who are brought up expecting to make their living fighting their way to success. Accomplishing a counterinsurgency mission, where they smile, wave and play with children is not what they've mentally prepared for until just prior to this deployment. The fight with the Taliban, who have been portrayed as an effective fighting force that melts into the shadows, is far less

than expected. "The biggest thing is probably frustration," O'Shea said about dealing with the insurgents. "They've been built up with such an aura around them as this unstoppable force. The people are smothered with a blanket of fear. "When we go ask, 'Are the Taliban here?' they all tell us, 'No Taliban here. They're somewhere else.' You can never get a straight answer," he continued. "They don't want to say that they are because they're scared." "I think the Taliban didn't live up to their hype," 21-year-old Torres agreed. "They were made out to be these fierce warriors, not scared of getting contact. When we landed, they were nowhere to be found. They only take a couple of shots at us, and they'll leave." Contrary to what the global media and initial reports described, the Taliban militants here are not the masters of warfare some have portrayed them to be. "They're unwillingness to engage us in a fight — you know, they shoot a couple of shots and they run. They plant an IED and they hide," O'Shea said. "Even without all our gear, a rifleman against one of these (goons) is no contest. "If we could just pin them down, we could defeat them no questions asked," the University of San Diego graduate said. "They can outmaneuver us, but that is to say they're good at running away." Winning a conventional fight here is not their mission. Earning the trust of the people and training Afghan national security forces, which 1st Platoon is doing on every patrol, is what will label this mission a success. When the Marines first arrived, the local residents were under the impression Americans would make promises and leave like others had before them, but over time, local perceptions have changed for the better. "I got the Afghan equivalent of we'll believe it when we see it," O'Shea said. By the same token, O'Shea says he's gotten feedback that tells him things have gotten better. "We like you. You talk to us. You have tea with us," locals have told him. "I've been invited to dinner. It's good to be doing it right from the beginning." Even with the feeling of success, it is difficult to quantify counterinsurgency victory. "From a conventional sense, it's easier to measure success: so many tanks, so much damage. It's a much more nebulous way of measuring success," he said. "Did we get fewer mean looks today? Were people happier to see us?" Even though living and working in Afghanistan is not what they expected, the Marines here are creating success where others from around the world have fought for it unsuccessfully for decades. Winning here takes a different skill set. Fortunately, it is one they have clearly demonstrated they can master, if the smiles and words of thanks from those who live nearby are any measure.



KHOUSARI AHBAD, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Platoon commander 1st Lt. Patrick O'Shea, from C Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, communicates with battalion headquarters about his squad-sized patrol's location Aug. 25, while pointing toward where an IED detonated two days earlier critically injuring a 5-year-old boy.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**2009 Fall Term Japanese Class**  
The Public Affairs Office is ready to receive sign-ups for the 2009 Fall Term Japanese Class beginning Sept. 29 at the Iwakuni Civic Hall. There are 40 seats available on a first come first served basis. The cost is 500 yen. For more information or to enroll, contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

**Iwakuni Teens**  
Join us for Club Beyond every Tuesday night. Enjoy games, music, food and fun plus a short Bible lesson. Club is held in Yujo Hall, between the chapel and thrift shop, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday. For more information, call the chapel at 253-3371 or call John at 080-4177-2060.

www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake, fill out the form and let Power 1575 and Marine Corps Community Services take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on the last Friday of every month a random birthday from the upcoming month will be selected and the person selected will receive a free birthday cake.

**Recruiting Gospel Choir Members for Annual Christmas Concert**  
We are preparing for the Annual Gospel Christmas Concert at Sinfonia Concert Hall Dec. 5 and the Annual Community Gospel Christmas Concert in Hofu City Dec. 19. This year we'll have guest soloist: Dorothy Morrison, lead vocalist for Grammy Award winning song, "Oh Happy Day." Join us as we give back to the community the joyful gift of celebrating Christmas. We will also provide a letter of appreciation for all choir members.

**New Outdoor Pool Hours**  
The Iwakuni Club pool will be closed every Mon. — Fri. and open 11 a.m. — 7 p.m. every Sat. — Sun. The Waterworks pool will be open 5 a.m. — 7 p.m. every Mon. — Fri., 9 a.m. — 7 p.m. every Saturday and 11 a.m. — 7 p.m. every Sunday. For more information, contact Semper Fit Aquatics at 253-4966.

**Pedodontist Visit**  
Dr. Keith Coe, a board certified civilian pediatric dental specialist, is slated to visit the Branch Health Clinic here and treat children from Monday to Sept. 24. Oral Sedation will be available if needed. To schedule an

Learn leadership every day

**LEADERSHIP** FROM PAGE 2

Charles C. Krulak, said it best in July 1996: "Our challenge is to be a Corps of men and women who consistently represent the highest moral character in and out of uniform." Character creates a solid foundation of which successful military units are built. From this foundation honor, courage and commitment will always be evident, providing the perfect description of a U.S. Marine. Moral character is instilled in Marines by parents, families, religious beliefs, schools, peers and other influences upon their lives. However, moral character must be continually sustained throughout a Marine's career through our distinct professional military education. Successful leaders are directly responsible and ultimatly accountable for instilling moral character in their Marines on a daily basis. Hence, moral character must be sustained in garrison, on deployment, on or offduty as well as in the battlefield. It is developed by experience and by daily decisions ultimately guiding Marines' lives by doing what is right regardless of the outcome. Gen. James T. Conway, our current commandant, understands clearly that experience is essential to leadership and continuity. This was conveyed in a Feb. 7, 2007 memo titled "Call to Service from the Commandant of the Marine Corps." The commandant said, "We will need the leadership, savvy and determined, experienced Marines like you, more than ever, your Marine Corps needs you." Today's leaders must effectively translate their experience in the battlefield as well as in garrison. Experience will enable Marines at any level to gain intellect, human understanding, moral character and ultimately defeat the enemy in the 21st century and beyond. Thus, the final question is to ask yourself if you are an effective and experienced leader. If not, what are you going to do about it?

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**  
• Club Beyond Tuesday evenings — grades 7-8 and 9-12  
• Bible Study and Fellowship Sunday evenings  
• Small Group Studies  
• Retreats  
• Service Projects  
• Mission Trips  
• Special Events  
• Training and Mentoring for Adult Volunteers  
• Parent Support Group  
Contact the youth director at 080-4177-2060 or jletaw@clubbeyond.org for more information.

*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

253-5291

**Friday, September 11, 2009**  
7 p.m. The Ugly Truth (R)  
*Premiere*  
10 p.m. Orphan (R)

**Saturday, September 12, 2009**  
1 p.m. Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)  
4 p.m. G-Force (PG)  
*Premiere*  
7 p.m. The Ugly Truth (R)  
10 p.m. I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13)

**Sunday, September 13, 2009**  
1 p.m. G-Force (PG)  
4 p.m. I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Orphan (R)

**Monday, September 14, 2009**  
1 p.m. The Ugly Truth (R)

**Tuesday, September 15, 2009**  
7 p.m. G-Force (PG)

**Wednesday, September 16, 2009**  
7 p.m. Orphan (R)

**Thursday, September 17, 2009**  
7 p.m. Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)  
*Last Showing*

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



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Automobiles

**1998 Mazda RX-7**  
Suzuki 650  
The bike is in good condition. Gloves, jacket and helmet are included. JCI is good until June 2011. Asking \$2,500. For more information, call (home) 253-2150 or (cell) 080-3729-5223.

**1992 Nissan 300Z**  
The car is in great running condition and fair body condition. It has power everything with a T-top. JCI is good until Nov. Asking \$1,300. For more information, call (home) 253-2150 or (cell) 080-3729-5223.

## Mess Hall Menu

**Monday**  
Bean with bacon sou, shrimp gumbo soup, savory baked chicken, oven roast beef, oven brown potatoes, tossed green rice, succotash, green beans and mushrooms, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake, butter cream frosting, banana cream pudding.  
Specialty Bar: Pasta

**Tuesday**  
Tomato soup, vegetable soup, turkey pot pie, salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, tangy spinach, steamed cauliflower, buttered noodles, brown gravy, dinner rolls, country style tomato salads, Mexican coleslaw, cherry pie, Boston cream pie, Oatmeal raisin cookie.  
Specialty Bar: Taco

**Wednesday**  
French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, Caribbean chicken breast, beef cordon bleu, O'Brien potatoes, chicken gravy, Creole green beans, savory summer squash, dinner rolls, cabbage, apple, and celery, three bean salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie, butter cream frosting, devil's food cake.  
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

**Thursday**  
Manhattan clam chowder, split pea soup, Cantonese ribs, turkey curry, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, Southern style green beans, corn on the cob, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake, whipped topping, banana cream pie.  
Specialty Bar: Deli Sandwich

**Friday**  
Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, baked fish, yankee pot roast, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, calico corn, simmered white beans, vegetable gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, coconut rasin drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, butter cream frosting, chocolate cream frosting.  
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

**2001 Honda CBR 929RR**  
2year JCI paid in June. Asking \$5,000 OBO. For more information, call (Cell) 080-3059-0626.

**1999 Silver Toyota Spacio**  
The car is in excellent shape, has gray interior, and a new CD player. JCI till March 2011. Asking \$3,000 OBO. For more information, call (work) 253-3469 or (cell) 080-3705-2974.

**1996 Mitsubishi Diamante**  
The car is very well maintained. A/C works great, new stereo with Ipod adapter, power windows and locks. JCI till Aug. 2011. Nice traveling car. Need to sell before Oct. Asking \$2,500. For more information, call (work) 253-2163.

## Miscellaneous

**Various Furniture Items**  
Cream colored sofa with two matching

chairs, rosewood legs - \$300 OBO  
Queen bed set with two dressers, two nightstands and large mirror - \$400 OBO  
Twin-size bed - \$60 OBO  
Natural wood shoe box 5 feet tall - \$50 OBO  
Japanese tansu five draws - \$50 OBO  
Roll top desk (good study desk) - \$50 OBO  
Sony TV 16 inches - \$50 OBO  
Sharp TV 16 inches - \$50 OBO  
JVC TV 22 inches - \$100 OBO  
For more information, call 253-3496.

## Jobs

**Chapel Positions Available**  
Now Hiring at MCAS Chapel  
Protestant Pianist  
Protestant Organist  
Christian Non-denominational Music Director  
Catholic Organist  
Catholic Choir Director  
For more information, please call the Logistical Contract office at 253-4233.

**NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities**  
Every day sailors, Marines and their families come to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in emergencies. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

# September Promotions

## MWSS-171

**Lance Cpl.**  
Baldwin, William F.  
Borges, Jeremy  
Colling, Erik J.  
Dykes, Ashley H.  
Ebana, Donard M.  
Flournoy, Kody C.  
Garnier, Jonathon A.  
Graham, Frederick A.  
Guffey, Darren A.  
Lash, Nicole M.  
Martinezmayol, Jorge D.  
Montanez, Albert J.  
Simmons, Joshua D.  
Steed, Kasey O.  
Zapata, Sebastian

**Cpl.**  
Clark Jr., Boyd T.  
Derrick, Christophe A.  
Esparza, Luis  
Fraser, Cameron S.  
Harger, Charles S.  
Hubler, Nathan B.  
Lundt, Matthew E.  
Quintana, Kevin J.  
Richards, Mathew A.  
Whited, Ryan A.

**Sgt.**  
Sistrunk, Mitchell G.  
Stirling, John A.

**Staff Sgt.**  
Colarossi, Joseph P.

## MAG-12

**Lance Cpl.**  
Figures, Harris  
Perdomo, David A.

**Cpl.**  
Castillo, Kevin J.  
*(Meritorious)*  
Garvey, Thomas L.  
*(Meritorious)*

## MALS-12

**Pfc.**  
Ross, David J.

**Lance Cpl.**  
Barrios, Angel  
Camino, Mario A.  
Cepeda, Nicholas R.  
*(Meritorious)*  
Chang, Seree  
Cintron Jr., Luis E.  
Hanselman, Casey L.  
Kirk Jr., James E.  
Teamer IV, Shedarah  
Tenn, Spencer E.  
*(Meritorious)*

**Cpl.**  
Bolthouse, Matthew A.  
Burleson, Alexander M.  
Galvin, Shane M.  
Grubbs Jr., Leroy H.  
Guyer, Blake C.  
Harris, Richard C.  
*(Meritorious)*  
Juarez III, Alberto  
Lopez, Brandon A.  
Press, Jeremy M.

## VMFA-242

**Lance Cpl.**  
Armstrong, Chad R.  
Fortier, Nicholas L.  
Gottardo, Frank  
Hunter, Christian D.  
Mason, Nicholas G.

**Cpl.**  
Hatherill, Maryah F.  
Maynard, Gil J.  
Meili, Ryan P.  
Thompson, Alantheus A.

**Sgt.**  
Furbee, Nathaniel R.  
Osterhout Jr., Jon S.

**Gunnery Sgt.**  
Detten, Jason N.

## H&HS

**Pfc.**  
Avery, Jake R.

**Lance Cpl.**  
Aguilar, Jorge  
*(Meritorious)*  
Alaniz, Ernesto C.  
Lindsey, Justin W.  
*(Meritorious)*  
Pineda, Manuel A.

**Cpl.**  
Bruestle, Corio G.  
Calzada, Jackeline  
Cote, Kristin E.  
Crabtree, Michael J.  
Dube, Dana M.  
Gauna Jr., Jimmy  
Hughes III, Robert D.  
*(Meritorious)*  
Lama, Zachary H.  
*(Meritorious)*  
Miller, Matthew J.  
Morrow, Devin A.  
Prout, Andrew P.

**Staff Sgt.**  
Haymon, Shane A.

## CLC-36

**Lance Cpl.**  
Ramos, Victor G.

**Cpl.**  
Biernesser IV, George W.  
Cruz, Atilio A.  
Lockefefer, Mark C.  
Sherwood, Corben S.

## MACS-4

**Cpl.**  
Barker, Cory L.

**Sgt.**  
Scott, James V.

**Staff Sgt**  
Edwards, Thomas T.

# Stroller Fit: This is how these mommies roll



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Stroller Fit participants perform cool down stretches to end class Sept. 2.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Mothers and their young children attended a one-hour Stroller Fit class that took place starting behind IronWorks Gym here Sept. 2. The Stroller Fit class is a new class offered by Marine Corps Community Services to help promote good health and fitness for parents. Stroller Fit is held 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday on the sea wall directly behind IronWorks Gym.

Since the class is new to everyone, it is going to evolve as it progresses, incorporating new exercises and equipment from the gym. "We might incorporate running depending on the different fitness (level and desire) of the class," said Darci Kruse, health promotions assistant director.

A total of four mothers with their children met up on the sea wall where Kruse and Rebecca Bethard, MCCS fitness trainer, were waiting ready to instruct the four eager mothers on healthful fitness.

"Our cardio was the walking and then we did a few strength exercises along the way," said Kruse. "We started with standing lunges then we did incline pushups on the sea wall followed by squats and some dips on the sea wall as well."

The mothers and children didn't stop at one spot to do all the strength exercises. They would walk about .25 miles then stop and stretch before they began each strength exercise.

The children ranged in ages from 9 months old to 2 years old. All the children seemed to enjoy the nice sea breeze as their mothers worked up a good sweat.

"It was a good class. I think she liked it, considering she was able to fall asleep," said Michele Navarro about her 2-year-old daughter Olivia.

Strollers are available to check out at the IronWorks Gym front desk for those mothers or fathers who do not yet have a jogging stroller. There are only a limited amount, and they are given out on a first-come-first-served basis.

Checking out a stroller at the front desk is as easy as walking in and signing your name on a roster. Once a stroller is checked out you have the opportunity to use it for the whole day before it must be returned.

"They have a couple of different types of strollers there," said Kruse. "There are double and single ones, but they are all jogging strollers, so they work well with you and there is some shock resistance for the children."

The shock resistance makes for a more comfortable ride for the children, as shock absorbers minimize the bumps of the road and help the children enjoy the exercise for the parents.

For parents who would like to participate in the course, the easiest way to get on top of the sea wall with a stroller is to go up the access ramp right next to the obstacle course next to the outdoor basketball court by the gym.

"Walking is a great exercise for everyone. It's easy and you don't need a lot of skill for it. You can choose your own intensity level by how fast you want to go; it is somewhat self-paced," said Kruse.

For more information on the Stroller Fit class or any other classes, call the MCCS Semper Fit Division at 253-5225.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Mothers perform incline push-ups on the sea wall here Sept. 2 to strengthen their core muscles during a new Semper Fit class called Stroller Fit. The class starts on the sea wall directly behind IronWorks Gym and runs 8:30-9:30 every Monday and Wednesday.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

From left to right, Michele Navarro with 2-year-old Olivia, Aby Castro with 1-year-old Naomi, Michelle Griffin with 1-year-old Nicholas, and Holly McNeal with 9-month-old Madeline make final preparations before they step off in the new Semper Fit class Stroller Fit. Stroller Fit is a one-hour class focusing on strengthening core muscles and endurance for the parents while the children get a little fun in the sun. The class is held on the sea wall directly behind IronWorks Gym and runs 8:30-9:30 every Monday and Wednesday.





LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Team Iwakuni second baseman Rodney Buentello tags out a JelFix base runner just before the runner reaches the bag during the 2009 Japanese and American Modified Fast Pitch Softball Tournament held at Penny Lake softball fields here Aug. 29. Team Iwakuni posted a 6-0 record after beating JelFix of Hiroshima in the championship game 12-7.

## *From first to second, Team Iwakuni takes down JelFix 12-7*

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Team Iwakuni took first place after beating team JelFix of Hiroshima 12-7 in the 2009 Japanese and American Modified Fast Pitch Softball Tournament held at the Penny Lake softball fields here Aug. 29.

Team Iwakuni went undefeated in the tournament posting a 6-0 record as they took home the first place trophies.

JelFix put up a good fight, never really letting Team Iwakuni put away the win.

JelFix opened the game with consistent hitting but was only able to bring in a single run during the top of the first.

On the other hand, Team Iwakuni came out swinging, bringing in six runs before they were retired for the inning, but not before they jumped to a 6-1 lead.

Team Iwakuni brought in four more runs in the second while JelFix only brought one in leaving themselves with a 10-2 deficit to overcome.

Team Iwakuni's strategy during the tournament was to bring in as many runs as possible and not to give mercy to any team due to the way the tournament was conducted.

"The tournament was based on a point system. It went off runs scored," said Team Iwakuni second baseman Rodney Buentello. "If all teams lost one game, it went off who scored more runs."

Buentello proved to be a valuable asset for Team Iwakuni during the championship game. He made a couple of key diving saves during the second and third innings preventing JelFix from bringing in many

runs or advancing their players into scoring positions.

"Defensively, our team did awesome. The fast pitch tournament brings out a better game in all of us," said Team Iwakuni pitcher Clinton Massengale.

The third inning, despite being another good defensive inning for Team Iwakuni, was the turning point of the game for JelFix. JelFix brought in two runs and held Team Iwakuni to two runs as well ending the inning 12-4.

"Japanese people are phenomenal on their fundamentals of baseball," said Buentello. "We were stronger physically, but they were not too far behind."

Team Iwakuni just took second place in the Far East Regional Softball Tournament at Camp Foster, Okinawa, in early August and has proven they can play softball, but modified fast pitch softball is a different story.

"Modified fast pitch softball is almost like slow pitch, but your arm comes up a little bit higher and your now thrusting the ball at a waist level," said Buentello.

Making it more difficult, the ball was tough to field because the type of rubber it was made of caused irregular bounces.

"It's different because if you don't hit this ball directly in the middle, it's either going straight up or straight down," said Buentello.

JelFix slowed Team Iwakuni down in the third, and in the fourth inning they stopped Team Iwakuni right in their tracks. JelFix brought in three runs and held Team Iwakuni ending the inning down 12-7, but the title was still within grasp for JelFix.

The championship game was scheduled for only 50 minutes or five innings, which is 10 minutes longer than the rest of the games held that day. But at the end of the fourth, there were only about 10 minutes left to play a final inning.

The officials called the game due to lack of time left to play, and that was all she wrote for JelFix's comeback hopes.

With a score of 12-7, Team Iwakuni proved they could adapt to a new style of softball and play among some of the best Japan had to offer.

"This is our last tournament as a base team," said Buentello. "So to close it out as champions from the harsh struggles of previous tournaments, it was an exciting win for us to end on a top note."



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Team Iwakuni pitcher Clinton Massengale steps into a pitch as he releases one of many strikes he threw at the 2009 Japanese and American Modified Fast Pitch Softball Tournament held at the Penny Lake Softball fields here Aug. 29. Massengale along with strong defensive play posted a 6-0 record after beating JelFix of Hiroshima in the championship game 12-7.