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SPORTS

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 36, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Silver Eagles arrive as Vikings sail away

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Silver Eagles, arrived here Sept. 17 from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., for a six-month tour as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

VMFA-115 replaces Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, Vikings, which returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Sept. 20.

Col. Douglas W. Pasnik, VMFA(AW)-225 commanding officer, said he enjoyed his tour here and is grateful to the surrounding community for the hospitality shown to his squadron.

Lt. Col. Danny L. Johnson commands the Silver Eagles, consisting of approximately 200 service members and about 10 F/A-18 aircraft.

"It's great to be back in Japan again," said Johnson. "Everyone is excited and looking forward to the exercises and supporting operational plans that are of utmost importance out here."

While deployed here, VMFA-115 is slated to participate in various exercises scheduled to take place in Okinawa, Thailand and South Korea.

"Improving our combat readiness will be the one takeaway (from the exercises)," said Johnson. "We're trying to make ourselves more ready in case we do have to execute plans that are important out here. We'll be more ready as time goes on, right up to the point we leave and head back to the states. Combat readiness is our goal."

Some of the Silver Eagle pilots expressed excitement for the scheduled exercises.

"I'm pumped," said Maj. Jerry Estell, VMFA-115 aircraft maintenance officer. "We now are here in theater to support operational plans and to get flying and get to do a lot of training that we missed out on earlier this year as we were preparing the aircraft. Now we have plenty of those jets, those training aids, to get back on the tactical step and get ready to do our job here for the next six, seven months."

The Silver Eagles are equipped with lot 9 Hornets, some of the oldest F/A-18s still in service. The VMFA-115 jets have recently undergone

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IN MEMORIAM

Nehemiah Ezekiel Markel

July 17, 2008 - Sept. 11, 2009

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A Memorial service was held at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Sept. 15 for Nehemiah Ezekiel Markel, who died Sept. 11.

Nehemiah, 14 months old, was born July 17, 2008 in Escondido, Calif., to Ryan Scott Markel and Wendy Markel.

Nehemiah is survived by his father Ryan, mother Wendy, and two brothers Cyrus and Malachi.

Contributions in Nehemiah's name can be made at Navy Federal Credit Union located at the Crossroads here.



MPs test out new CBRN gear

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Military police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters Marines trained in chemical biological radiological and nuclear awareness and operations at the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 15.

Members from a combat logistics support team out of Carlsbad, Calif., trained Marines to respond to a CBRN-type terrorist attack if it were to happen aboard this installation.

Marines trained with equipment that did not seem too different from the familiar mission-oriented protective posture gear. The CBRN gear is essentially the same type of equipment but is made for a completely different environment.

"The difference is that there are different standards that are a requirement, not better, not worse, just different," said Stacy Jeambert, a member of the CLS training team.

A MOPP suit, which was created for combat use, does not need to be vapor tight. The MOPP suit protects against field concentration and chemical agents, but field concentration is much different from what would be found on a terrorist scene. The Occupational Safety and Health Association standards state that the CBRN suits need to be vapor tight.

"When they put it on, it's totally impermeable. It doesn't breathe," said Jeambert.

During the course, Marines demonstrated the proper way to wear the CBRN suits and were taught how to don and clear the Millennium masks which are also different from the M-9 masks Marines usually train with.

"It's hot in here," said Lance Cpl. Andre Pawlowski as he stood in front of the classroom covered from head to toe.


The CBRN equipment is provided to the military policemen aboard the air station only because PMO will be the first on the scene if an actual terrorist incident were to happen.

"That doesn't mean that these guys are going to be the ones that are cleaning it up," said Jeambert, "but once an incident is identified as a CBRN incident, they're going to need someone on the scene to do crowd control, and who better to do that than our military police?"



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Lance Cpl. Andre Pawlowski demonstrates how to clear the new Millennium masks during the chemical biological radiological and nuclear awareness and operations training held at the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 15.



Commanding Officer/Publisher
Col. Michael A. O'Halloran

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. J. Lawton King

Public Affairs Chief
Master Gunner Sgt.
John A. Cordero

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Lance Cpl. Miranda Blackburn

Community/Media Relations
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Administration
Hiro Sumida

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PSC 561 Box 1868
FPO AP 96310-0019
Phone 253-5551
Fax 253-5554

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

‘Core Values To Live By...Honor, Courage, Commitment...’

LCDR JOHN Q. COMETA
DEPUTY COMMAND
CHAPLAIN

"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34.

In his dying moments on the cross, Jesus gave seven statements commonly referred to as "the seven last words." Surprisingly, his first words are words of forgiveness to his tormentors and executioners. It was a prayer to the Father who is the ultimate source of forgiveness.

Shakespeare once wrote, "The tongues of dying men, Enforce attention like deep harmony, Where words are scarce. They are seldom spent in vain, For they breathe truth, That breathe their words in pain."

One of the questions posed by Stephen Covey, author of the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," is "how many on their deathbeds wished they'd spent more time at the office or watching TV?" He added, "The answer is, no one. They think about their loved ones, their families and those they have served."

Jesus, in his final hours on the cross, thought about his enemies, his mother and his friends. Jesus lived a life with no regrets. He accomplished his mission.

A dying patient once said, "I would never have told my wife and children 'later' or 'someday' when they wanted some of my time."

Some of our sailors that I counseled after they received death notifications during our back-to-back deployment with USS CHOSIN would regretfully tell me, "Chaplain, I should have called my father more often had I known he would die this month."

Let us live in such a manner that we would live each day as if it were our last.

Garth Brooks dedicated a song

to his wife, "If tomorrow never comes, will she know how much I loved her? Did I try in every way to show her every day that she's my only one? So tell that someone that you love what you're thinking of if tomorrow never comes."

Life is indeed short. We need to quit living a life of mediocrity and set our priorities right by investing more of our time, skills and God-given talents to benefit our family, our beloved country and humanity.

As defenders of our great nation, let us always remember our core values of honor, courage and commitment.

Let us live by these, and if necessary, let us die by these values.

Whether we like it or not, we are going to have trials, suffer and die someday.

If we are going to suffer and die someday, why not suffer and die for the highest and the best — for God and for our country!?

Deter. Detect. Defend. Avoid ID theft.

Active duty alerts help protect military personnel from identity theft

CONTRIBUTED
FEDERAL TRADE
COMMISSION

The last thing you want to worry about while you're on deployment is someone assuming your identity to commit financial fraud. Now, you don't have to.

Amendments to the Fair Credit Reporting Act allow you to place an "active duty alert" in your credit report.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, one of the agencies that enforces the FCRA, the alert requires creditors to verify your identity before granting credit in your name.

Your credit report contains information on where you live, how you pay your bills, and whether you've been sued, arrested or filed for bankruptcy. Nationwide consumer reporting companies sell the information in your report to creditors, insurers, employers and other businesses that use it to evaluate applications for credit and a host of other activities, including insurance, employment or renting a home.

Your credit report can be a tool to help you guard against or discover identity theft, which occurs when someone uses your personal information, like your name, your Social Security number or your credit card number to commit fraud.

Identity thieves may use your information to open a new credit card account in your name. Then, when they don't pay the bills, the delinquent account is reported on your credit report.

Inaccurate or fraudulent information could affect your ability to get credit, insurance or housing now or in the future.

People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years cleaning up the mess the thieves have made of their names and credit records.

If you are a member of the military and away from your usual duty station, you may place an "active duty alert" on your credit report to help minimize the risk of identity theft while you are deployed.

When a business sees the alert on your credit report, it must verify

your identity before issuing you credit. The business may try to contact you directly, but if you're on deployment, that may be impossible.

As a result, the law allows you to use a personal representative to place or remove an alert.

Active duty alerts on your report are effective for one year unless you request that the alert be removed sooner. If your deployment lasts longer, you may place another alert on your report.

To place an "active duty alert" or to have it removed, call the toll-free fraud number of one of the three nationwide consumer reporting companies: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion. The company will require you to provide appropriate proof of your identity, which may include your Social Security number, your name, address and other personal information.

Contact only one of the three companies to place an alert. The company you call is required to contact the other two, which will place an alert on their

versions of your report as well. If your contact information changes before your alert expires, remember to update it.

When you place an active duty alert, your name will be removed from the nationwide consumer reporting companies' marketing lists for prescreened offers of credit and insurance for two years unless you ask that your name be placed on the lists before then.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them. To file a complaint or learn more about identity theft and your credit rights under the FCRA and the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, visit ftc.gov/credit.

- Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com
- Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN www.experian.com
- TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 arrives in Iwakuni

EAGLES FROM PAGE 1

modifications which bring them up to date with their newer counterparts.

"(The modifications) bring a pretty big punch to the capabilities of the aircraft," said Estell.

The scheduled exercises give the VMFA-115 pilots the perfect opportunity to test the new modifications the jets have been outfitted with, he added.

Along with the scheduled exercises, the VMFA-115 commanding officer is scheduling various professional military education classes to discuss the legendary Marine Corps battles fought during the World War II Pacific campaign.

Johnson said he is already planning PME classes for the Silver Eagles once they land in Okinawa for their first training exercise.

He also hopes to schedule transportation to take some of his squadron to Iwo To, formerly Iwo Jima, for a PME.

"What I want the Marines to take away with them are the experiences or the lessons learned we've had in the past and apply them to what we are doing right now and for them to be ready for the future," said Johnson.

Many of the Marines were enthusiastic as they looked forward to the PMEs and training exercises.

"Being here in Japan, what I'm most looking forward to are the PME trips that we might take to Mount Fuji or the island of Iwo Jima," said Cpl. David Bissett, a VMFA-115 aviation information systems specialist.

Bissett said he is happy to be here and excited with all that's being planned during their tour in the Pacific.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Silver Eagles, arrived here Sept. 17 from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., for a six-month tour as part of the Unit Deployment Program. Lt. Col. Danny L. Johnson commands the Silver Eagles.

VMFA(AW)-225 experience Pacific Theater, return home little wiser

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, Vikings, finished their six-month tour here and returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Sept. 20.

The VMFA(AW)-225 Vikings were on tour here as part of the Unit Deployment Program to participate in various training exercises which took place throughout the Pacific theater.

"UDP is about being ready for conflict in this area if anything ever popped up, but it's also about training, and while we were here we were able to do a lot of training to maintain a level of readiness for our aircrew, and our Marines were able to take advantage of that opportunity to see a lot of things in the world that in a lot of cases you don't get a chance to see," said Col. Douglas W. Pasnik, VMFA(AW)-225 commanding officer.

During their tour here, the Vikings participated in exercises over Malaysian, South Korean and Japanese airspace.

Some of the exercises the Vikings partook in were Foal Eagle, Key Resolve, Air Warrior, Belligerent Kettle, Ardent Blitz and others.

Although each exercise provided the Vikings with a different challenge and presented them with opportunities to learn something new, many of the VMFA(AW)-225 pilots were especially excited when they landed in Malaysia to participate in exercise Air Warrior.

While in Malaysia, the Vikings squared-off against Mikoyan MiG-29s during simulated air assaults planned in support of the exercise.

"We had an opportunity to fight an air-to-air opponent or a type of airplane that we could see as a future air-to-air opponent in different places of the world that some guys just dream about fighting but never get an opportunity," said Pasnik.

"That was just a great exposure event for us," Pasnik added.

Pasnik said he thought the deployments were also a good way to expose his Marines to the conditions other people live in.

Many of the VMFA(AW)-225 Marines participated in various community relations projects, visiting orphanages and schools during their tour here, and took trips with the Single Marine Program to various locations in Japan.

Lt. Col. Daniel Shipley, VMFA(AW)-225 executive officer, said he was proud of how

the VMFA(AW)-225 Marines conducted themselves during their tour here and how they were able to handle the challenges they were faced with during the various exercises.

He said he also believed the arrival here of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, based out of Beaufort, S.C., would be a good experience for the squadron.

"I think 115 is a good squadron that came in here," said Shipley.

"They're as positive as we are, and they're ready to hit the ground running in a very good sense, and I look forward to hearing about their success while they're out here," he said.

Shipley said he was grateful for the station's hospitality and feels the squadron is leaving in a better condition than they arrived, thanks to the experiences they've had while on tour



Iwakuni Fire Dept. undergoes week of decontamination procedure training

Firefighters set up a mass-decontamination tent during a weeklong training exercise at the fire station here Sept. 15. The tent the firefighters set up would be used in the case of an emergency to rinse patients of any contaminating agents. Alvin Victor Arita, the assistant chief of training, monitored the firefighter's readiness as well as timed them to test the proficiency and accuracy. After inspecting the completed tent, the inspector gave the firefighters a score of 100 and informed them that they set the tent up in under the time allotted to them. The tent exercise was one of many events to take place over the course of a week. The classes and field exercises focused on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training. This type of training is held to refresh and update firefighters on equipment and procedures.

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Community members show charity starts at home

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Community members from around the station gathered at the 1st Marine Air Wing Vietnam Memorial across from the Crossroads here to repaint and beautify the site Sept. 19.

Genesis Lodge No. 89 Free and Accepted Masons led and organized the beautification project which motivated nearly 20 volunteers to spend their Saturday afternoon upkeeping the monument.

"The significance of this monument is to honor all those that fell in the Vietnam War," said Byron Keys, memorial beautification project organizer. "It's important that we never forget. If any of us was to fall in Iraq or in Afghanistan and there's a memorial built, we hope as the years pass that that monument is not neglected. So it's all about just remembering those that came before us."

The monument, constructed May 26, 1972, is inscribed with the names of 493 1st MAW service members who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. Along with the names inscribed on the monument are the words, "In memoriam, with grateful remembrance for those who gave their lives before us, we dedicate this plaque and our lives that their sacrifice may never be in vain. We commend their souls to Al-mighty God. May all who read these words rededicate their lives to the preservation of freedom which others have bought for us."

The volunteering service members repainted the torii erected at the monument to honor the memory of the fallen service members.

Keys said he hopes the volunteers never forget the sacrifices made by service members of any past or present war.

Many of the volunteers were happy to donate their efforts in memory of their predecessors but were also glad to be given the opportunity to help upkeep the station they



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Community members from around the station repaint the torii erected at the 1st Marine Air Wing Vietnam Memorial here Sept. 19. Approximately 20 volunteers spent their Saturday afternoon upkeeping the monument honoring the service members who lost their lives during the Vietnam War.

live in.

"It's a good thing to do for base beautification," said Deron Ross, a memorial beautification project volunteer. "What else to do but volunteer on your free time. It's better than doing anything else."

Ross said he gets personal gratification by volunteering and takes pride in what he does with his time.

"There should be more of this," said Ross. "Not just on a large scale but small things like walking around base picking up trash. I

mean, people should get out more and pitch in to help out with anything on base."

Some of the volunteers felt while a lot of volunteer work is done in town, the station is sometimes forgotten.

"We're in Iwakuni to support the Japanese in any way we can, and I know we do a lot of things out in town, but charity starts at home," said Keys.

"We've got to take care of us before we can think of someone else. We can't forget about us."

Chief petty officers pinned, receive combination covers



From left to right, Aldrin M. Corpuz, Adrian R. Figueroa and Giovanni H. Balangan were all promoted during a pinning Chief Petty Officer Ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Sept. 16. In the Navy, the rank of E-7 carries unique responsibilities and privileges that these new chief petty officers will be bound to observe and be expected to fulfill. "Ask the Chief" is a household phrase in and out of the Navy, and a chief is required to be a fountain of wisdom, the ambassador of good will and the authority on personnel relations as well as the technical expert.

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

DAY OF PLAY



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Patrick Grogan (left) and Jack Reed (right) demonstrate their jumping skills inside an air bounce during the Boys and Girls Club Day located on the parade deck in front of Building 1 on Sept. 19. Grogan and Reed met each other in the air bounce after realizing that they had matching snakes painted on their faces. Children attending the event had the opportunity to watch live performances, eat cotton candy and make colorful bracelets.

Youth event sparks lasting friendships

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Jack Reed had never met Patrick Grogan until today. Grogan had just had a snake painted on his face and so did Reed, but it wasn't until they bumped into each other inside the giraffe "jumpie" that they really became friends.

"Jack is the coolest best friend that I have met all day," said Grogan, a third grader at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School.

The face painting and jumpie action was a part of the fun to be had at the Boys and Girls Club Day held on the parade deck in front on Building 1 on Sept. 19.

Some children made beaded bracelets as others waited anxiously in line for balloon animals. The games, music and food were for the children's taking, and as for the parents, they were mere escorts.

"After I am done with doing some jumping tricks, I am thinking about getting another snake painted on my face," said Grogan. "I already have a black snake, so I think I will get a green snake on the other side or maybe I will get a spider. I haven't decided yet."

Grogan is extremely forward and more than willing to make friends and so is Reed.

"Watch me do a trick Patrick," shouted Reed as he did a back flip.

Grogan quickly demonstrated his freakish ability to master a perfect crab walk.

It wouldn't be wrong to say that Reed was a little impressed by Grogan's ability to mimic the sea creature but little did Grogan know that Reed had an even better trick, the "Super Kick."

The "Super Kick" involved Reed jumping extra high in the air as he kicked his left foot forward so forcefully that it would make a Karate Kid cry.

Once Reed and Grogan finished jumping in the jumpie they quickly exited and put on their shoes.

What were they going to do next?

Definitely going to get their faces painted, but was it going to be a snake or a spider?

The ultimate decision could wait because, hold up, Grogan just found out that Reed has the same teacher he used to have.

"Oh, my gosh. That is the same teacher I think I had in the 2nd grade," said Grogan.

"Really?" said Reed. "That is so cool. Maybe

we know some of the same people."

Grogan responded, "I don't know. Maybe. Have you seen any of your best friends today?"

"Oh, yeah!" replies Reed. "I've seen like 40 of my best friends if I include you."

The conversation between Reed and Grogan continues, and it ends with a final decision for the face paint. It is definitely going to be a green snake because, OMG, green snakes are so cool.

"It is really important to have events like this because it creates an opportunity for children to meet along with parents," explained Diane Rasmussen, a mother of two, who after meeting Reed and Grogan's parents, learned that all their sons are in Boy Scouts together.

Who knows if Reed and Grogan's friendship will last past the day's end, but does it really matter?

They got their sugar fix, they bounced their hearts out and they met each other.

"So are we friends now?" asked Reed.

"Yes," replies Grogan. "You have been my friend since I first met you."

20 minutes and counting.



22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon



After the opening gun shot, nearly 350 participants enter the water of the station marina to begin the 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon held here Sunday. The open-water swim portion of the triathlon consisted of two heats, one released minutes after the first. The annual triathlon consisted of a 1.2K open-water swim, 36K bike race and 10K run.



Masafumi Yasui was the only one-legged participant in the 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon held here Sunday. He completed the competition ahead of nearly half of the participants with the aid of his crutches.



Genta Horimoto and Jimmy Shields finish the 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon together here Sunday. Camaraderie and good relations were more important than winning for some participants as they encouraged each other to keep on going and to complete the grueling race.

349 participants compete for fun, friendly competition, teamwork

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon was held here Sunday. Approximately 284 Japanese and 65 American athletes gathered at the marina to kick off what would end up being an all-morning event.

The competitors were divided into categories determined by age, gender and by team or individual efforts.

Miki Takuya was the men's overall winner with a time of 2 hours, 8 minutes and 37 seconds, and the women's overall winner was Kishida Yuko.

A nice sea breeze for spectators made an awful current for the competitors to swim against.

"Swimming was intense. It was like a fight," said Dustin Ruiz, a competitor in Sunday's competition. "You got hit from all directions."

Once participants finished a 1.2K swim they had to run to their bikes, which were staged on top of the dock. Upon arriving at their bikes, competitors immediately made what preparations they needed to start the cycling portion of the competition.

"The transition from swimming to biking was the hardest part," said Ruiz.

Out of all the participants competing, there was one that really left a lasting memory. The standout star was

Masafumi Yasui, an amputee who completed the entire race with one leg.

"It showed the power and will of one man's determination to complete a triathlon, despite having a serious handicap," said Daniel Negrete, a competitor in Sunday's competition. "He was a source of inspiration and earned everyone's respect."

Respect was one trait which all competitors carried on their shoulders Sunday. All competitors helped one another by simply extending common courtesies and showing good sportsmanship.

"The best part of competing definitely was the camaraderie that everyone gets from being together and competing side by side," said Jacquelyn White, a competitor in Sunday's competition.

Upon completion of the competition, participants were given a certificate with their name and run time and also were given a free lunch provided by Marine Corps Community Services.

"It was an amazing experience," said White. "I really can't describe the feeling it gives, but it is an overflowing sense of accomplishment."

For additional information about upcoming competitions, call the MCCS Semper Fit division at 253-5225.

Editor's note: Finishing times for competitors other than the first participant to complete the triathlon were unavailable at the time of publication.



A participant in Sunday's 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon holds his arm out to receive a rubber band during the bike portion of the competition. Rubber bands were given out at a turn-around point for officials to keep count of how many laps the competitors completed. Competitors had to complete a 36K bike race before they could start the 10K run to finish.



A competitor races through the turn-around point for his second of five laps during the cycling event of the 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon held here Sunday. Cycling, the second event, involved 36 kilometers of biking.



A participant in Sunday's 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon begins the last portion of the competition, which is a 10K run. Competitors raced against each other in three consecutive events: a 1.2K open-water swim, a 36K bike race and finally a 10K run.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Representatives of the Department of State and multiple civilian agencies, including several of Baghdad’s U.S. Embassy-based action officers and representatives of all three Al Anbar-based provincial reconstruction teams, tour the oasis and palm grove aboard Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Sept. 9, 2009. Marines of Multi National Force - West hosted the officials and gave them a day-long orientation of the area to increase the action officers’ situational awareness about issues and occurrences in Al Anbar province.

U.S. Embassy officials in Baghdad

lend an ear to Marines in Anbar

CPL. MEG MURRAY
MULTI NATIONAL FORCE - WEST

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — As the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq continues, more responsibilities begin to fall on fewer shoulders. However, those shoulders are not always clad with the camouflage uniforms of U.S. service members. As the military presence shrinks, more and more civilians, like those working at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, find their areas of responsibility expanding.

To help ease the process, Marines of Multi National Force - West hosted representatives of the Department of State and multiple civilian agencies, including several embassy-based action officers and representatives of all three Al Anbar-based Provincial Reconstruction Teams, aboard Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Sept. 9, 2009.

The main goal of the day-long orientation was for the Marines of MNF-W to increase the action officers’ situational awareness about issues and occurrences in the province.

“We are trying to establish a civilian-military team between MNF-W and civilian components to achieve deeper collaboration as we move forward,” said Bernt Johnson, the foreign policy advisor to the commanding general of MNF-W. “Anbar is and will continue to be important to the U.S. mission, and people continue to understand the important, complex

and significant challenges and issues we encounter in Anbar.”

Brig. Gen. John E. Wissler, the deputy commanding general of MNF-W, spoke briefly to the visitors, relaying an encouraging message.

“From a security perspective, Anbar is relatively calm,” Wissler began. “If there’s anything that marks our tour here, I would say it’s the rapid rate of change, and my sense is that will continue.”

Many of the embassy representatives were thankful for the opportunity to learn about Al Anbar from Marines, who have had a presence in the province for six years.

“Sometimes the perspective we get in Baghdad can be very different,” said Samuel Werberg, who has been an economic officer at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad for five months. “Smart people who come here with great ideas sometimes need to step back, look at lessons learned, and ask themselves what it is the people really need us to do out here. We have to recognize the great work done out here for six years now and maintain the relationship of trust [with the people of Al Anbar] that has already been established.”

Collaborative efforts like these ensure the continuation of success by U.S. military personnel and civilians in Iraq, even as the composition of the U.S. support to Iraq gradually shifts in size and form.

Yuma air station’s

SAR helps save

life during Labor

Day weekend

CPL. LAURA A. MAPES
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. — During the Labor Day holiday, Search and Rescue personnel from the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz., assisted U.S. Border Patrol in saving the life of an injured woman in the Jacumba Mountains, Calif.

SAR received the call just after 6 p.m., and after gathering information about the situation, they dispatched at approximately 7 p.m.

Because of the approximate 40-minute, 80-mile trek, fuel was a major concern during the rescue, said Capt. Sean Mitzel, SAR HH-1N Huey pilot.

Hueys can carry roughly 1,400 pounds of fuel for approximately two hours of flight.

However, with a 40-minute flight there and back, along with rescue time, the crew needed to refuel before their return.

“I knew they had enough fuel to get there and enough fuel to get back, but not enough to do the rescue and get back,” said Sgt. Sean McKeown, SAR avionics mechanic.

“I locked on refueling from Imperial County Airport,” McKeown added.

Fuel wasn’t the only concern of the SAR crew.

The Sept. 7, 2009, weather was “nasty” and wind gusts reached approximately 25 mph, making the rescue difficult, according to Hospitalman 2nd Class Michael Skelton, the SAR corpsman who responded to the call.

Orographic lift, or rising air, created turbulence on the Huey during the rescue.

“Considering the conditions, the rescue was executed very well due to the crew’s high level of training,” said Mitzel.

The patient was located in a mountainous bowl with three very steep sides, causing station rescuers further difficulty gaining access to the injured man.

“During the rescue I felt well trained and well prepared for what happened,” said Skelton.

After the roughly hour-long rescue, Skelton and the victim were transported to El Centro Hospital, where the patient received medical attention.

“This won’t affect the way we train, because we are already preparing ourselves for these types of situations,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Schellenberg, station SAR corpsman.

SAR has conducted 12 rescues so far in 2009, according to Schellenberg.

In 2008, station SAR went on 24 rescue missions.

Of those, SAR rescued 15 civilians and nine service members.

“(This rescue) proves that we need to stay vigilant and be prepared to answer the call when no one else is able to,” said Mitzel.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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

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, the lead vocalist for the Grammy Award-winning song, “Oh Happy Day.” Come and join us as we give back to the community the joyful gift of celebrating Christmas through music. We will also provide a letter of appreciation for all choir members who participate. Practices will start in September. Please call 090-4104-1541 or e-mail billiej316@gmail.com if you would like to join us or if you have any questions.

Birthday Break
The birthday break is an ongoing promotion held every Friday at 9:15 a.m. on Power 1575 radio. The promotion is open to anyone with a birthday. Just visit 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 there will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

Coupon Distribution Program
The Coupon Distribution Program is for all personnel aboard the station. Coupons are donated by various donors and are good until six months past the expiration date. For more information, call Marine and Family Services at 253-6161.

The Biggest Saver Coupon Contest
The Personal Financial Management Office is conducting a saver coupon contest for all authorized patrons of the MCAS Iwakuni commissary through Oct. 31. Take your receipts to the Personal Financial Management Office in Building 411, room 201.

Recruiting Gospel Choir Members for Annual

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic	
Saturday	4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass 9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tues. – Fri.	11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday	6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults
Protestant	
Saturday	9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School 11 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Protestant Service 11 a.m. Children’s Church
Wednesday	6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104) 6 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)
Church of Christ	
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Latter Day Saints	
Weekdays	6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities
Teen Programs	
	• High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12) • Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8) • HS&JR Bible Studies • Retreats • Service Projects • Missions Trip • Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring • Parent Support Group Call 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.

For more information, call 253-6250.

PMO Lost and Found
Please contact the Provost Marshal’s Office Lost and Found if you’ve lost anything around the station. The following are just some of what has been turned in: Hospitality Solutions International card, 12-inch Maglight flashlight, black denim key case (six keys, one Swiss army knife), watches, jewelry, GBA game, dog tag, cell phones, necklace key chain with boys and girls on cloth, wallets, keys, combat life-saver bag, iPods, digital cameras, glasses, flash drives, bicycle helmets, toy airplane, computer hard drives, black bag with breath easy turbo unit, umbrella, sunglasses, a Swiss gear backpack with contents. Please contact PMO Lost and Found at 253-4929 or email carrie.white@usmc.mil for more information.

New Outdoor Pool Hours
The Iwakuni Club pool will be closed weekdays and open weekends 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Waterworks pool will be open weekdays 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, contact Semper Fit Aquatics at 253-4966.

Parent’s Dinner
Club Beyond and the station chapel are hosting a dinner for parents of teens on Oct. 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. Come enjoy a meal with other parents, meet the staff and volunteers of chapel youth programs, and learn about the great activities available to Iwakuni teens, including day trips, community service, club meetings, ski trips, etc. This is also a chance to give your input on programs you’d like to see and find out how you can be involved. Your teenagers are also invited. To reserve a spot please call the chaplain’s office at 253-3371 or call the youth director at 080-4177-2060.

Distance Education Enrollment
Through a variety of distance learning delivery systems, the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education provides distance education and training opportunities for all Marines, government employees and family members. Our globally-accessible programs prepare graduates to perform effectively in service, joint, and multi-national environments and in situations ranging from humanitarian assistance to combat. Our online learning management system, MarineNet, provides education to all Marines wherever they are stationed. For more information, visit www.tecom.usmc.mil/cee.

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classified link on the station Web site and click on the advertisement request form link. Submit the form via the Web site, or send the e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Alternatively, you can 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.

SAKURA THEATER

169-5291

253-5291

Friday, Sept. 25, 2009
7 p.m. White Out (R)
Premier
10 p.m. A Perfect Getaway (R)
Premier

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009
1 p.m. G-Force (PG)
4 p.m. A Perfect Getaway (R)
7 p.m. White Out (R)
10 p.m. G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG-13)

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009
1 p.m. Aliens in the Attic (PG)
4 p.m. White Out (R)
7 p.m. A Perfect Getaway (R)

Monday, Sept. 28, 2009
7 p.m. Orphan (R)
Last Showing

Tuesday, Sept 29, 2009
7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG)
Last Showing

Wednesday, Sept 30, 2009
7 p.m. A Perfect Getaway (R)

Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009
7 p.m. White Out

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1992 Gray Mitsubishi Chariot
JCI good until May 2010. With CD Player.
Runs great. Asking \$1000. For more
information call (home) 253-2651 or
(cell) 080-3081-7918.

1996 White MVP Van
4-door vehicle. Seats 7. No body damage. A/C
and heat works great! Moon roof. JCI good
until July 2010. Asking \$2000 or OBO. Need
to sell ASAP. For more information, call 253-
2808.

1990 Pajero Mitsubishi SUV

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Cream of mushroom soup, Creole
soup, sauerbraten, hot and spicy
chicken, fried rice, oven glo potatoes,
fried zucchini, calico corn, dinner
rolls, potato salad, mixed fruit salad,
congo bars, double-layer marble
cake with butter cream frosting,
blueberry crunch.

Tuesday
Cream of potatoes soup, chicken
noodle soup, southern fried chicken,
barbeque beef cube, steamed rice,
buttered pasta, black eye peas,
Creole squash, macaroni salad,
deviled potato salad, chocolate
chip cookies, spice cake with butter
cream frosting, lemon meringue pie.

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

Thursday
Minestrone soup, cream of chicken
soup, Creole macaroni, fried shrimp,
fettuccini noodles, alfredo sauce,
grilled cheese sandwich, tempura
vegetables, peas and carrots, dinner
rolls, cocktail sauce, macaroni
salad, German tomato salad, sugar
cookies, strawberry shortcake with
whipped topping, vanilla creamed
pie.

Friday
Clam chowder, minestrone soup,
braised beef and noodles, baked fish,
mashed potatoes, fried cabbage, mix
vegetables, chicken gravy, dinner
rolls, potato salad, spinach salad,
banana bread, shortbread cookies,
dutch apple pie.

Big SUV. 5-speed standard. 4-wheel drive.
All new tires. New batteries. JCI good until
Oct. 2009. Asking \$300 or OBO. For more
information, call 253-3496 or 253-2091.

Miscellaneous

Various Furniture Items
Cream-colored sofa with 2 matching chairs,
rosewood legs - \$250 OBO.
Queen bedroom set with 2 dressers,
2 nightstands and a large mirror - \$250 OBO.
JVC TV 52", like new, 2 1/2 years old - \$400
OBO.
Sony TV 16" - \$40 OBO.
Sharp TV 16" - \$40 OBO.
JVC TV 22" - \$100 OBO.
Roll Top Desk that makes a good study desk
- \$50 OBO.
For more information, contact Bob at 253-
3496 (DWH) or 253-2091 (AWH).

Motorcycle Oil
One case or 12 quarts of Amsoil brand full
synthetic motorcycle oil in 10W40 for sale.
Asking \$75. For more information, call 253-
5487 or 253-2764.

Bunk Bed
Silver metal bunk bed with desk underneath.

Bought at exchange one year ago. Child has
outgrown it. Mattress not included.
Asking \$100. For more information, call
253-2651 or (cell) 080-3081-7918.

Job Announcements

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, 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. Be that friendly
person who lets them know they've come to
the right place. Client Services Assistants
volunteers greet clients and guide them
through the initial intake process.
To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

Housekeeper
Desperately seeking cleaning person.
Looking for someone to clean apartment in
Building 955 once a week. Tasks include:
dusting, vacuuming, cleaning windows,
mopping, sweeping, bathrooms, cleaning
out trash cans, cleaning air filters, etc. If
interested, call 253-2505 or email nbear15@
aol.com

TOASTMASTERS SPEECH CONTEST

The Iwakuni Toastmasters Club is hosting an English tall-tale speech
contest which will involve approximately 30 contestants. They would like to
invite community members to attend and listen to the participants deliver
their speeches Sunday afternoon.

The contest will take place at the Iwakuni-shi Fukushi Kaikan located by
the Deo Deo electronic store.

Address: 7-1-2 Marifu-cho, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi-ken.
Time: Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.
Entrance Fee: 500 yen

For more information, call Ms. Yasuda at 253-4501.

Thrift Store temporary location open

SUBMITTED BY
IWAKUNI THRIFT STORE

The Iwakuni Thrift Store has
successfully moved into its temporary
location at Building 701, located directly
across from the Sakura Theater.

The store has temporarily relocated
to the current site while renovations
are made at the permanent location in
Building 1117.

Thrift Store manager Gwen Peterson is
excited about the renovation which will
make the store larger and more modern
than the old facility.

Peterson feels the improvements to
the Thrift Store will allow the non-profit
organization to do even more for the
station community.

Proceeds go directly back into the
community.

The Thrift Store continues to accept
clean, gently used donations twenty four
hours a day, seven days a week, in a white
drop box located just outside of the store.

Large furniture items can be picked up
from your residence by appointment.

The Thrift Store is always looking for
anyone who has a little time to assist with
many of the operations required to run the
store.

Volunteering is a great way to support
our station community and enjoy
friendship and camaraderie with other
volunteers at the same time.

"We really appreciate all the volunteers
who give so freely of their time and energy.
Many times volunteers pop in on their
lunch hour or for an hour on their way
to do their errands. Any gift of time is
appreciated," said Candice O'Halloran, the
Thrift Store advisor.

The Thrift Store is open each Wednesday
and Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.

Keep reading the Iwkauni Approach
and listening to Power 1575 radio as
more information about the Thrift Store,
volunteering and the grand re-opening
scheduled for early November becomes
available.

26 teams get youth soccer season rolling

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2009 Youth Soccer season kicked into
action Sept. 12 with an opening ceremony at
the IronWorks Gym here.

A total of 26 teams gathered at the
IronWorks gym to begin the nine-week
season.

Following the ceremony, 13 teams battled
out their first games.

The 3- to 4-year-old age division along
with the 5- to 6-year-old and 7- to 9-year-
old ages do not keep score, so it's all about
fundamentals and fun.

"Some of my strategies I use are cone drills.
That is running zigzag through cones and
then kicking the ball in the goal and kicking
the ball to each other as they run down the
field so that they can share the ball," said
Roderick Jelks, coach for the 3- to 4-year-old
Glow Worms.

Parents seem to be more concerned with
how well the children are playing or what
the score is, but the children are all about
running and laughing.

"In the end it doesn't matter whether
your team is good or not, what matters is
whether they're having fun," said Jacquelyn
White, coach for the 7- to 9-year-old Iwakuni
Thunder.

All parents cheer and scream every time
their child gets the ball to run, shoot and
score.

"In the end it doesn't matter whether your
team is good or not. What matters is whether
they are having fun, learning and getting
something out of the training," said White.

Children are encouraged to conduct good
sportsmanship and proper soccer techniques
as well.

When a player goes down due to an injury,
all the players are taught to immediately



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

Players from the 3- to 4-year-old age division make a play toward the ball during the first week of the 2009 Youth Soccer season. The season kicked off with an opening ceremony at IronWorks Gym here Sept. 12.

drop to one knee and
wait for a coach to
assess the injury before
resuming play.

When the injured
player comes to his
or her feet or is taken
out of the game, all
spectators and players
clap and cheer.

"I feel so privileged and
honored to be coaching
such a great group of
kids," said White.

"The fact that the
children look up to
you, listen to you and
you watch them grow
together on and off the
field, there is no better
way I would spend my
time."



Two players from the Glow Worms and Thunder Cats of the 3- to 4-year-old age division attack the ball during the first week of the 2009 Youth Soccer season that kicked off Sept. 12. Youth sports focus on the fundamentals of the game and teamwork rather than the need to win. Therefore, score is not kept.

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

Station indoor pool to wow community members Nov. 3

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Renovations to the indoor pool
at the IronWorks Gym here will
soon be completed, and the pool
is scheduled to reopen Nov. 3.

Pool renovations, which
originally involved the
replacement of the pool's heat
exchangers and more than
200 tiles, have been expanded
to include the replacement
of the pool lining, pool side
benches and new heated floor
tiles around the entire pool
area, along with many other
maintenance renovations.

"The scope of the project was
just much bigger than was first
anticipated," said Stephanie
Brown, IronWorks Gym
aquatics director.

"They're really working hard
in there," she added.

Some of the additional
renovations the pool is
undergoing include concrete,

metal, tile and electrical
work, crack repairs,
waterproofing and plastering.

Construction also expanded
to include work on the indoor
children's pool.

The pool has undergone two
renovations in this year alone,
leading to the frustration of
some community members.

"I understand the
(community's) frustration, but
it's going to be so worth it in the
long run," said Brown. "I think
they'll be very pleased with
what's being done and how it
will look. I just appreciate their
patience, and I ask that they
bear with us a little bit longer."

The pool will be slightly more
luxurious once its renovations
are done, Brown said.
Other workers at the
IronWorks Gym expressed
excitement for the pool's
projected reopening.

Curtis Brown, IronWorks Gym
athletics director, said the pool



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Japanese construction workers work to finish renovations in the IronWorks Gym indoor pool facilities Sept. 18. Renovations, which are expected to be finished by Nov. 3, have expanded to include the replacement of the pool lining, pool side benches along the walls and new heated floor tiles around the entire pool area.

is going to be spectacular and
provide multiple uses for the
community members.

"There are not that many
bases with indoor pools," said
Curtis Brown.

Community members

will be able to use the pool
recreationally and for physical
training once the pool's
renovations are finished,
and they'll see the difference
with the new tiled floors and
benches, he added.

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