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SPORTS

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 38, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

ASF: training experience leaves burning impression



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Charles Williams, an Air Transportation Division passenger agent, screams in pain after being sprayed in the eyes with Oleoresin Capsicum spray and tries to count how many fingers are being held in front of his face during Auxiliary Security Force training at the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 29. Approximately 20 Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron service members participated in the ASF training and received instruction on the use of deadly force, riot control and mechanical-arm control techniques. Read the full story on page

JMSDF opens house to locals

SGT. JOSH COX
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force delivered shock and awe to the local community by means of elaborate demonstrations, static displays and flybys during an open house here Sunday.

The JMSDF Iwakuni Festival, celebrated annually in the fall, commemorated the 36th anniversary of the force's command aboard the station.

According to the JMSDF, the event's goal was to familiarize the local citizens with the JMSDF units and activities, and to strengthen exchange and support within the community. The event also gave JMSDF families a boots-on-the-ground avenue to further understand the self-defense force.

The open house, which resembled a mini-air show, attracted hundreds of spectators with umbrellas for shade and cameras in hand.

A JMSDF drill team composed of cadets in flight training performed following an opening ceremony and remarks from dignitaries.

Dignitaries included national government officials, prefecture assembly members,

SEE JMSDF ON PAGE 3

Station awarded for successful safety efforts

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Secretary of the Navy and the commandant of the Marine Corps presented the station with the Marine Corps Safety Excellence Warrior Preservation Award and the Secretary of the Navy Safety Award this past month.

The awards are presented annually to Marine Corps installations with well-established, comprehensive safety programs to keep service members and material assets safe.

"This is not a safety office award; it is a community award," said Richard Perry, station safety director.

"The station gets to claim the award, but in truth, it took the efforts of everyone on the station to include the tenant commands."

The Marine Corps Safety Excellence Warrior Preservation Award includes a commemorative

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 3

New head chaplain seeks to understand community

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Rear Adm. Mark L. Tidd, chaplain of the Marine Corps and deputy chief of Navy chaplains, visited the station here Oct. 1 during his tour to various Pacific Navy and Marine Corps installations to understand and meet the needs of service and community members here.

"Most of my time, serving with Marines, has been at 2nd Marine Division deploying out of Camp Lejeune," said Tidd. "It has been a long time since I have been in the Pacific region, so I specifically wanted to come to the Pacific for my first major trip to hear how things are going out here and see what are the specific challenges that they face and also to see how it's changed in the past 20 to 25 years."

Tidd said the commandant of the Marine Corps is deeply concerned with the welfare of his Marines and sailors all around the world, and the commandant has asked him to see how they are doing.

"I had the privilege of serving as his battalion chaplain when he was a battalion

commander a number of years ago, and he told me then, 'Get muddy, get sweaty, go see my Marines and sailors,'" said Tidd. "When he promoted me in August, he said the same thing to me. So I'm carrying out my commander's intent."


Before arriving here, Tidd visited Marines and sailors stationed in Hawaii and Okinawa.

To understand how station life here was different from Hawaiian and Okinawan stations, Tidd had a religious ministries team brief with the chaplains, visited Machiko Hamamoto, affectionately known as Mama-san, and had an in-call with Col. Stephen G. Nitzchke, Marine Aircraft Group 12 commanding officer here.

Tidd also had an in-call with Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, visited Marines and sailors in the Branch Health Clinic here, and spoke with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 service members here.

"Each place I go has its own unique characteristics, its own unique

SEE CHAPLAIN ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Happy 234th birthday sea services’

Lt. CMDR. JOHN Q. COMEDA
DEPUTY COMMAND CHAP-LAIN

On Oct. 13, 1775, the Continental Congress directed two armed vessels to intercept British transports carrying weapons and ammunitions for the British Army in America. The quest for freedom and independence from England gave birth to one of the most formidable forces in the sea services – the United States Navy.

Our forefathers believed that divine providence made us a great nation. They believed that we are one nation under God. We still take an oath, which is solemnly concluded, “So help me God.”

May we continue to pass on the legacy that our forefathers left us.

As we celebrate the 234th birthday of the United States Navy, let us honor all our men and women in the sea services, especially those who gave their lives and paid the ultimate sacrifice.


Sailors and their leadership are the backbone and enduring strength of today’s Navy.

We also recognize the significant contribution of the families that support their mission.

President Obama in his speech at the U.S. Naval Academy said, “Look at these young men and women. Look at these sailors and Marines. Here are the values we cherish. Here are the ideals that endure. In an era when too few citizens answer the call to service, to community or country, these Americans chose to serve. And they did so in a time of war, knowing they might be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice.”

May God continue to bless our sailors and Marines and all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces as they continue to protect the freedom that we all cherish most.

October: Crime Prevention Awareness Month



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, signs a proclamation for the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 30. The proclamation included many subjects concerning safety and the general welfare of the Marines and sailors aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

Upcoming Crime Prevention Awareness Month events

Oct. 15
10 - 10:30 a.m. McGruff and military police read to children at station library
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Provost Marshal's Office open house
6:30 p.m. Coloring and drawing contest entries due

Oct. 16
Announce winners of coloring and drawing contests
5 - 8 p.m. McGruff and MP attend M. C. Perry Fall Festival

Oct. 19
6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Pass out red ribbons at main gate with substance abuse counselors
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Present a crime prevention table with materials in front of Crossroads Mall in support of Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 20
7:30 - 8 a.m. Conduct an interview live on AFN about laws of the road in regards to alcohol abuse in support of Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 21
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Red Ribbon event at Crossroads Mall with McGruff, Daren and a crime prevention table

Oct. 22
6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Pass out red ribbons at Monzen Gate with substance abuse counselors in support of Red Ribbon Week
10 - 10:30 a.m. McGruff and MP read to children at station library
12:15 - 1 p.m. McGruff and Daren at high school lunch (ages 13-15)

Oct. 23
10:15 - 11:45 a.m. McGruff and Daren at kindergarten and 1st grade recess (ages 5-12)

Oct. 27
9 a.m. McGruff and MP read to children at Child Development Center

Oct. 29
10 - 10:30 a.m. McGruff and MP read to children at station library

Oct. 31
Noon - 4 p.m. McGruff at MAC Dome handing out safety coloring books at MCCS Kids Halloween Party
MP and McGruff patrol housing areas and have two candy inspection check points

New head chaplain visits station during tour of Pacific

CHAPLAIN FROM PAGE 1

opportunities as well as challenges,” said Tidd. “Iwakuni, compared to Okinawa, has a little bit more of a small-town feel to it, and for some people, that’s very familiar to them because perhaps they grew up in a small environment. For other folks, maybe that’s a bit of a transition and they’re not quite accustomed to the small-town dynamics.”

Tidd said the station’s small-town feel makes it easier for the community to come together and help each other out when things get tough for an individual far away from home.

Suicide in the military was among one of the many topics discussed during his visit.

“The Marine Corps is concerned about suicide,” said Tidd. “It wants to do everything it can to help our people recognize that suicide is a permanent answer to a

temporary problem. We need to continue to work with all of our leaders at all levels to ensure our Marines and sailors recognize that’s not the solution.”

It’s also important for the community to recognize that as peers they have a great role to play in helping each other to recognize that there are better options than suicide, Tidd said.

Tidd said he is appreciative of the efforts the community and service members take in carrying out the station’s mission despite facing the daily challenges of being so far away from home.

“Iwakuni has a tremendous mission in this part of the world, both in terms of our global missions as well as our regional missions,” said Tidd.

Tidd was promoted as the 17th chaplain of the Marine Corps and deputy chief of Navy chaplains in August 2009.

He has deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with one gold star, the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal with three gold stars.

Lt. Cmdr. Denis Cox, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain here, had the opportunity to escort Tidd around the station to his various appointments.

Cox said while some chaplains are either technically or tactfully proficient, Tidd has a great combination of both.

“He’s going to be very good for the chaplain corps,” said Cox.

After leaving the station, Tidd continued his tour of Pacific Navy and Marine Corps installations at Naval Air Station Atsugi, Japan.

Station: Best in safety

SAFETY FROM PAGE 1

wall plaque and citation signed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps authorizing the use of the title “Marine Corps Center of Safety Excellence.”

The SECNAV safety award includes a plaque and a Secretary of the Navy safety flag to be flown for one year.

Also included with the SECNAV award is a message from Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, that reads: “Congratulations to all DoN safety excellence recipients. Your integration of ‘mission first, safety always’ into your command culture was superlative and you have justly earned the right to my safety flag for the next year. Your employment of operational risk management techniques, both on and off-duty, demonstrated total command involvement and impressive front office safety commitment. Your commitment to safety has no doubt prevented loss of life, and precluded countless injuries and damage to our material assets. Your challenge now is to share your lessons learned with others and mentor those commands that strive to obtain the safety excellence you have achieved.”

Perry said winning the award involved everyone aboard the station and proves that members of the community look after each other and take accountability for their actions.

“The awards let (other military installations) know that MCAS Iwakuni is committed to excellence in everything that it does,” said Perry.

“Safety does not come by accident. It is a result of accomplishing the mission with attention to detail.”

This marks the first time the station has received either award.



Sightseers take special interest in a static display SH-60K helicopter and its crew during the JMSDF Iwakuni Festival here Sunday. Tours of various aircraft like the SH-60K helicopter and flight simulator demos were coordinated for festival guests.

Open house festival strengthens exchange

JMSDF FROM PAGE 1

Iwakuni’s mayor and city council members, Japanese Self-Defense Force Cooperative Association, JSDF Parent’s Association and distinguished military officials.

JMSDF pilots performed demonstrations above the crowd and showcased specific capabilities unique to each aircraft. Static display aircraft organic to Iwakuni and from installations like Akeno Camp, Tsuiki Air Base, JMSDF Ozuki

and JMSDF Ohmura were also stationed on the airfield for curious visitors.

Veterans and children alike took a special interest in a static display SH-60K helicopter and its crew, who gave visitors a chance to take a closer look at the cockpit and controls.

Tours of various aircraft like the SH-60K helicopter and flight simulator demos were also coordinated for festival sightseers.

“The JMSDF Iwakuni festival

was blessed with nice weather, and we had more people from last year,” said Lt. Cmdr. Satoshi Murakawa, public affairs officer with Fleet Air Wing 31 here. “We are happy that we were able to complete each event as we had planned with no incidents, while we had a great success as we received favorable comments from our guests.”

Editor’s note: Hiroko Soriki contributed to this article.



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron service members train in riot control techniques during Auxiliary Security Force training at the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 29. Every 120 days, a number of H&HS service members train in the basics of ASF techniques to be ready at a moment's notice if they are ever called on to defend the station.

H&HS service members train to defend station

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Every 120 days, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marines and sailors train in the basics of Auxiliary Security Force techniques by the Provost Marshal's Office here.

PMO trainers prepare the service members to be ready at a moment's notice in the event they are ever called on to defend the station.

Approximately 20 H&HS service members participated in the latest ASF exercise at the PMO building here Sept. 29.

Participating service members trained in the use of deadly force, mechanical arm control and riot control techniques, and were level 1 Oleoresin Capsicum certified.

"A lot of people are 'voluntold' for this detail, and as soon as they come to us, they do have negativity, and we have to let them know it's not all bad," said Gunnery Sgt. Jeff Langella, PMO training chief. "ASF is not a bad deal at all, because it's stuff that they'll never experience (otherwise)."

The H&HS service members spent the morning with PMO trainers reviewing the proper use of deadly force and the situations when deadly force is authorized.

Afterwards, the Marines and sailors gathered on the grassy field next to the skate park here and struggled with the mechanics of arm locks and takedowns.

Langella said he wanted the service members to understand the concept of "minimum effort, maximum results" and how to use it when necessary.

Once the service members covered the mechanical arm control techniques, they armed themselves with four-foot plastic shields, batons, helmets and shin guards to review the basics of riot control.

The Marines and sailors lined up in flanks, shield to shield and thigh to thigh, resem-

bling the Spartan soldiers of old as they covered the fundamentals of riot control.

"The service members have to learn how to function as a team," said Langella.

"When one person falls down, everybody else has to fill that gap."

As the day's training was coming to an end, the service members were faced with the most difficult part of the training.

The Marines and sailors were required to be level 1 OC certified by being sprayed in the face with OC then running through a short obstacle course as their eyes and skin burned from the chemical.

Langella explained sometimes a team member can get lost and separated in a crowd during a riot and can face being sprayed with OC.

"Your mind can control all of it," said Langella. "If you can tell yourself and you tell your nervous system, 'Hey, this hurts. I understand it hurts, but I got a job at hand. I got to refocus,' and if they stay focused on that, just to get through the techniques, then they get the relief at that point."

Pads were brought out and a grassy section was squared off and doused with OC spray as the obstacle course was prepared.

One by one, Marines and sailors sprinted around the skate park and rolled around the OC sprayed grass contaminating their skin and clothes.

Afterwards, the service members nervously stood before the PMO trainers sweating and breathing hard, with anticipation of the pain to come.

Screams and grunts could be heard as each service member was sprayed in the eyes with the burning liquid.

In pain and half blinded, the Marines and sailors ran through the course, beating pads down to the point of exhaustion.

"It was difficult to control myself," said Cpl.



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron service members train in the basics of mechanical arm control techniques during Auxiliary Security Force training at the Provost Marshal's Office here Sept. 29. Service members were also trained in basic riot control techniques, deadly force and were level 1 Oleoresin Capsicum certified during the two-day training. Approximately 20 H&HS service members participated.

Jon-Luke Mcadams, a food service specialist here.

"Having (OC) in my eyes — you can't see. You got to open them; you don't want to open them. The other difficult part is moving."

Mcadams said after undergoing the training he feels confident he'd be able to defend the station.

Other service members shared his feelings of confidence.

"Before I got into this training, I didn't know anything, like how to take down people, how to take down your enemy and how to do that riot control," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Martin, a cryogenics machinist mate.

"It was a real good learning experience. I got through, and I feel proud of myself."

Like a bug in a storm drain

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

They can't manipulate force fields, freeze objects by force of will or stop time, and you won't see them flying through the air with a mask and cape, but to Aya Ogata and Miho Ikeda, two Japanese nationals, Sgt. Tchaikawsky Samuels and Sgt. Steve R. Williams fit the persona.

Sept. 20 seemed like a great day to spend swimming and exploring Hamada Beach, but to the friends' surprise, their adventure changed with the turn of the tide.

To start off the morning, Samuels could be found wading near the shore, digging for clams, while the other beachgoers made their way into the water.

"The current was very strong, making it difficult to dig in water only knee high," said Samuels. "I became bored and frustrated at not being able to find any (clams), so I looked around for Sgt. Williams. He appeared to be far out, jumping over cresting waves."

Deciding to join his friends with hopes of playfully sneaking up and scaring the girls, Samuels attempted to make his way out to the others by swimming under water.

"The water was very shallow, and the waves were pushing me back to the shore, so I became very exhausted after 10 or so breaths of swimming against the waves," said Samuels. "I could understand why they felt safe. There was no sign of a current pulling out to sea."

As he closed in on the others, Williams turned and spotted him — a failed endeavor. Samuels' efforts availed him nothing.

After spending several minutes goofing around with the others,

Samuels was tired and decided to make his way back to the shore. Everything seemed to be going well until Samuels noticed the others gradually shifting into a potentially dangerous situation.

"I thought back to the safety training given about past Hamada Beach drownings," said Samuels. "I remembered that the third row of rocks was not a safe place to swim. I thought that my friend and the girls may be in danger; they did not realize they were drifting towards a current that could pull them out to sea."

Samuels contemplated swimming out to warn them of the danger but was afraid of being labeled as a spoilsport, so he continued to watch from the shore. He soon realized that it was more important to bring them to safety than worry about their perception of him.

"As I swam towards them, I thought to myself, 'they are going to die, and (I'm) joining them,'" said Samuels.

Upon approaching them, he warned them of the danger they were in, but it was too late. Ikeda was being pulled out by the current, and to make matters worse, she couldn't swim.

Williams was closer to Ikeda and was able to push her toward Samuels. Samuels' first instinct was to grab her by the hand, risking being pulled out himself. Just as he grabbed Ikeda's hand, Ogata began to struggle. Williams went out after her and helped her reach Samuels. Samuels reached out for her, too.

As if that wasn't bad enough, Williams, who also is not a strong swimmer, had been pulled back out and was yelling for help.

Samuels took a step toward him, and by forming a human chain,

Williams was able to grab Ogata's leg.

"I was pushed under by the waves and sucked out by the current," said Williams. "I was being tossed around like a bug in a storm drain."

Everything happened so fast that there wasn't time for hesitation.

With everyone kicking, Samuels was able to make some ground before being pulled under water, causing him to lose hold of Ogata and Ikeda's hands.

"For the first time, it occurred to me that I may not be able to save everyone. I needed saving myself," said Samuels.

He had been separated from the others and could no longer stand up.

"I finally shared the same amount of fear I saw on everyone else's face," said Samuels.

He made his way back to Ogata, but she insisted on going back out after Williams and Ikeda.

"I watched the three of them struggling, and Miho's single act took away any doubt about what I was going to do next," said Samuels.

"It was all of us or none of us."

At this point, people had begun to watch from the shore, but none had the courage to make an effort to help.

Samuels swam out to his friends and soon realized he could tip-toe again. Out of mere desperation to get back to shore, the beachgoers were trying to swim the most direct route, forgetting the training they've received in the past.

They were growing tired fast and gaining no ground. It nearly seemed like a hopeless cause, and then Samuels remembered the advice given in the training: swim to the side and then back to shore.

Before long, they were out of the current, but the waves continued to bash against their bodies.

"Samuels picked up both women and held them under his arms like seabags and was saying go to the right," said Williams. "I held Samuels' shoulder from behind him and braced to prevent myself and the others from being sucked back out."

After struggling for what seemed like hours, Samuels set the girls down in knee-high water. They collapsed on the shore to rest and catch their breathes.

"Samuels laid out with exhaustion like he was going to make sand angels," said Williams. "I remember screaming, 'we're alive!'"

Samuels was just as relieved as Williams.

"I could feel my muscles twitching and my chest burning. I could feel the salt water I swallowed burning my throat. However, I also felt the most amazing feeling ever. I saved another person's life while almost losing my own! Fear, desperation and determination turned into an overwhelming sense of accomplishment," said Samuels.

"I felt like a super hero standing on the edge of a skyscraper overlooking a city — like I was on top of the world!"

It took nearly losing their lives to realize how much they have to live for. It truly was a life-changing experience for them all.

"Being put in the situation to save someone could happen any day. You just have to decide what you are going to do — fight or flight," said Williams. "We are all still alive, and I have never been so happy to be on dry land and be alive since that day."

A hero is a person who helps others even when they themselves are in danger or a tough situation, said Ogata.

The group may have gone to the beach as just friends, but they left more than that; Samuels and Williams were their heroes.

H&HS NCO of the Quarter

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sgt. Eddie Garcia enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in May of 2005 and graduated from Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on Aug. 12, 2005. Following Recruit Training, Pfc. Garcia reported to the School of Infantry West aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., for Marine Corps Combat Training in August of 2005. Then Pfc. Garcia reported to Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in September of 2005 where he graduated the 9-week course in December of 2005.

After completing his entry-level training, Pfc. Garcia reported to his first duty station at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, in December 2005 and was assigned to the Provost Marshal's Office.

Soon after, he was selected for the Military Police Special Reaction Team and completed the course at Fort Leonard Wood.

In September of 2006, Lance Cpl. Garcia was selected to become a military working dog handler and sent to the Marine Corps Military Police Detachment at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for the Military

Working Dog Handler Course where he was awarded a Meritorious Mast for outstanding performance.

Upon promotion to the rank of corporal in November of 2006, Garcia attended the Corporal's Course at MCAS Iwakuni where he was recognized as the "Iron Man."

From November 2007 through June 2008, Garcia deployed as an individual augment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Garcia's past assignments include MCAS Iwakuni, I and II Marine Expeditionary Force and Task Force Military Police Iraq. His past billet assignments include gate sentry, explosive team leader, explosive driver, armed escort, military police desk sergeant, patrol supervisor, military working dog handler, military working dog chief trainer, and Special Reaction Team member and assistant team leader.

Garcia's professional military education includes the Military Police Course, Special Reaction Team Course, Corporal's Course, where he was recognized as the Iron Man, and the Military Working Dog Handler Course.

Garcia's awards include the Good



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMBAT CAMERA

Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon second award.

2009 Regional Special Olympic Games: Intellectually challenged athletes, station members take part in one woman’s dream



Maria Rinoie, a 14-year-old Special Olympic athlete, ecstatically runs toward Lance Cpl. Nicholas Montiel, a Special Olympic volunteer, for high-fives after she scored during the bowling competition at the Strike Zone as part of the regional Special Olympic Games hosted here Oct. 4. Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics over 40 years ago to help improve and enhance the lives of intellectually challenged individuals.



Special Olympian athletes start the cycling competition in front of the IronWorks Gym as part of the regional Special Olympic Games hosted here Oct. 4. This marks the third time the regional Special Olympic Games comes to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Approximately 50 intellectually challenged athletes from Hiroshima and Yamaguchi Prefecture competed in the event alongside 40 volunteering station members and 130 support staff.



A Special Olympian athlete aims to score a point during the Frisbee competition at Penny Lake as part of the regional Special Olympic Games hosted here Oct. 4. Competitors were required to throw a Frisbee into a hula-hoop starting close to the target and moving further away to score points.

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Over 40 years ago, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics founder, stood before a crowd of approximately 1,000 athletes and convened the first International Special Olympic Games at Soldier Field in Chicago, Ill.

Following Shriver’s lead, intellectually challenged athletes marched on the sports arena with these words on their lips: “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

In the tradition of athletes before them and echoing the same words, approximately 50 intellectually challenged athletes from Hiroshima and Yamaguchi Prefecture competed in the regional Special Olympic Games hosted here Sunday.

More than 40 station members and 130 support staff volunteered their time to help support the event which is observed by more than 3 million other individuals around the world.

“Just a few short weeks ago, Mrs. Shriver passed away and

yet her dream continues to live today, right here,” said Lt. Robert Mills, presiding chaplain at the Special Olympics opening ceremony.

Mills said the athletes were given the opportunity during the games to be brave in the attempt and take part in Shriver’s dream as they tested their strength, speed and skills.

The athletes eagerly tried their skills and abilities in cycling, basketball games in the Iron-Works Gym, Frisbee and soccer competitions at Penny Lake and bowling at the Strike Zone.

“Because of their handicaps, they really don’t have very much confidence in themselves,” said Frank Thornton, Special Olympics Hiroshima sports program director. “They wonder why they are different from everybody, but if you bring them out here to compete with other people, they start to feel that they are not different from everybody.”

Events like the Special Olympics help build the intellectually challenged individuals’ confidence and shows them they

really aren’t that different from everybody else, Thornton said.

Proving they were no different, the Special Olympic athletes felt the same feelings of pride and sense of worth that top athletes like Michael Phelps and Lance Armstrong feel in competitions.

“I’ve been practicing and wanted to prove myself today,” said Shouno Aoki, a 12-year-old Special Olympian cyclist. “Riding my bike felt really great. I like the way the wind feels on my face when I ride.”

Aoki said he wanted to go faster but he couldn’t, and all he could do was try his best.

Many of the volunteering service members were glad they could be a part of the day’s event and were amazed at the competitors’ abilities.

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Montiel, a Special Olympic volunteer, said he was really surprised a young 7-year-old competitor was beating him and his friend at bowling.

“She’s tiny,” said Montiel. “She’s rolling an eight pound ball over there and she’s scoring

higher than me and the other Marine. She lit up with excitement whenever she got a strike.”

Montiel said he loved being a part of the day’s activities.

To bring the day’s event to an end, Col. Michael A. O’Halloran, station commanding officer, and his wife, Candice O’Halloran, were on-hand at the bowling center for the closing ceremony.

O’Halloran and his wife presented each participant with a medal to commemorate the competitors’ efforts during the games.

O’Halloran said he wanted to congratulate each participant and thank the volunteering community members for giving their time to such a beautiful event.

Shriver dreamed up the event to bring joy to the intellectually challenged and their families and to bring them together with volunteering community members.

She dreamed up the event to accomplish all that was accomplished aboard the station here Sunday.



Kousuke Ohama, a 24-year-old Special Olympian athlete, goes for a lay-up during the basketball competition at the IronWorks Gym as part of the regional Special Olympic Games hosted here Oct. 4. Many of the volunteering service members said they were amazed by the skills and abilities displayed by the competing athletes during the various events.



Special Olympian athletes work together to take the soccer ball away from a volunteering community member during the soccer competition at Penny Lake as part of the regional Special Olympic Games hosted here Oct. 4. This marks the third time the station here has hosted the regional Special Olympic Games.



Special Olympian athletes display their medals awarded by Col. Michael A. O’Halloran, station commanding officer, at the Strike Zone during the closing ceremony of the regional Special Olympic Games hosted here Oct. 4. All athletes were awarded medals commemorating their efforts throughout the day.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



GUNNERY SGT. CHRIS W. COX

NIMRUZ PROVINCE, Afghanistan — 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Cpl. Tavares Taylor lowers a reconnaissance robot into an 80-foot karez Sept. 23. The Marines were investigating tunnels in the district's karez system, a network of wells and tunnels hundreds of years old, that are suspected to have been used by insurgents as caches for improvised explosive device-making materials.



GUNNERY SGT. CHRIS W. COX

NIMRUZ PROVINCE, Afghanistan — 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Cpl. Tavares Taylor lowers a reconnaissance robot into an 80-foot karez as Markbot operator Cpl. Garrett Andrews guides it with the remote controller Sept. 23. The Marines were investigating tunnels in the district's karez system that are suspected to have been used by insurgents as caches for improvised explosive device-making materials.

Marines investigate insurgents' underground highway

GUNNERY SGT. CHRIS W. COX
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 3

NIMRUZ PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Some people go cave exploring for fun, but when there is a possibility of stumbling on explosive materials, an armed enemy or a nasty surprise they've left to be triggered in the dark, it's about as far from fun as one can get.

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are searching wet, pitch-dark tunnels ranging from 40 to 100 feet underground that connect the karez system, a network of wells and tunnels between the snow-capped peaks of the Buji Bhist mountains and the arid desert plain here. The karez system was originally constructed hundreds, maybe thousands, of years ago. These days, insurgents are using these tunnels as a form of covert transportation and storage for improvised explosive device-making materials. The Marines are putting a stop to that.

"We've found evidence of weapons, dwelling, trash. We know they're down there," said Company E executive officer 1st Lt. Husein Yaghnam. "We can't collapse them because that will affect the farmers' irrigation system, but we can deter the enemy from using them," said the Toledo, Ohio, Marine. "It might open

up opportunities just by deterring the enemy from using them."

What's it like descending along the sheer walls of these holes that travel all the way down to the limestone bedrock?

"It's kind of scary, because you don't know what's in the wells," said Personal Security Detachment platoon sergeant Cpl. Jason L. Paul, from Shiprock, N.M. The PSD Marines provide security for the battalion commanding officer, Lt. Col. Patrick Cashman, who sometimes personally investigates the wells for his own situational awareness.

"They're usually 40 to 60 feet down — straight down — and it's really dark down there," he described. "Every time we head down, I always tell my guys to be careful."

Fortunately for these young men weighed down with gear, drinking water, weapons, ammunition and a flashlight, going down on foot isn't always the first option they try. Sometimes they send down a robot — with varying degrees of success.

"Yesterday we sent the bot into three holes. In the first one it could only go in about eight feet, so we had to go in, retrieve it and investigate on foot," said Markbot operator Cpl. Garrett Andrews the day after a series of tunnel hunts.

"Later we sent the bot down but didn't see

any man-made passages."

In addition to deterring the enemy from using the karez, the Marines are also trying to determine which wells will be irrigating which fields before planting season arrives in a few months.

"We're also looking at the locals growing poppy," said Paul. "Yesterday, we found one that is actually being used to water their fields."

By identifying which wells are directly connected to potential poppy farmers, the Afghan government may be able to convince them beforehand to grow a different crop as they are doing in neighboring Helmand province. Two different areas there — Garmsir and Nawa districts — have seen a measurably decrease in poppy growth since government workers began distributing bags of wheat seeds around last year's planting season. This year's program is already in full swing.

Before that can begin here though the Marines still have a lot of work to do, and their recent activity around the ancient well system has drawn notice.

"Yesterday, the locals were driving by really close taking peaks here and there," said Paul. "The local insurgents see that too. They're looking at that to see if that's another way to get us. We're planning for that."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CFC 5K Run
A 5K run/walk open to everyone is scheduled to start at 11:30 a.m. today at the parade field across from Building 1 to raise awareness of this year's Combined Federal Campaign, which runs from Monday through Dec. 4. For more information about the 5K run or CFC, contact 2nd Lt. Mark Enoch, station CFC project officer, at 253-5550.

Fall Festival
Matthew C. Perry Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is hosting a Fall Festival on Oct. 16th 5-8pm. The event will be held on the soccer field behind the school (next to the school

age center). Many games, activities and food! Fun for the whole family, and all station residents are welcome! For more information, call 253-3327 or 253-2160.

CTC Class Registration
Central Texas College registration will be held until Oct. 26 at Bldg. 411 Rm. 109. Classes will also begin Oct. 26. For more information, call 253-3288.

Free Child Development Screening
Education and Developmental Intervention Services will be doing a free child development screening for the children less than 5 years old Oct. 15 and 16 at

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School. Child specialists will answer questions and evaluate major areas of children's growth. For more information, call EDIS at 253-4562.

MCAS Iwakuni Commissary "Fire Sale"
The station commissary will be having a "Fire Sale" at the Building 1005 parking lot, next to the IronWorks Gym Oct. 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All items will be sold by full or partial cases and some items by units. Coupons will be accepted. Save up to 40 to 50 percent on all items. Plenty of parking will be made ready and available.

Recruiting Gospel Choir
Members for Annual Christmas Concert We are preparing for the Annual Gospel

Christmas Concert at Sinfonia Concert Hall on 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." Come and 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. 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.

Club Iwakuni Parking lot
The staff noncommissioned officer parking lot at Club Iwakuni will be undergoing renovations that will open up 16 additional parking spaces. The parking lot will be partially blocked off from Saturday to Nov. 13. Club Iwakuni and Torii Pines

Golf Course will remain open for regular business hours during this time.

The Biggest Saver Coupon Contest
The Personal Financial Management Office is conducting a contest for all authorized patrons of the MCAS Iwakuni commissary Aug. 1 to Oct. 31. The person who saves the most money in coupons during the three-month contest will win an hour long massage. Take your receipts to the Personal Financial Management Office in Building 411, Room 201. For more information, call 253-6250.

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

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 jlataw@clubbeyond.org.

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



"Blast from the Past"

A live 2-hour radio show featuring the best of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Every Monday, 7 - 9 p.m. on power 1575.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, October 9, 2009
7 p.m. The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) *Premier*
10 p.m. The Goods (R) *Premier*

Saturday, October 10, 2009
1 p.m. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (PG)
4 p.m. Post Grad (PG-13) *Premier*
7 p.m. The Goods (R)
10 p.m. A Perfect Getaway (R)

Sunday, October 11, 2009
1 p.m. Bandslam (PG)
4 p.m. The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13)
7 p.m. Post Grad (PG-13)

Monday, October 12, 2009
1 p.m. Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) *Free Admission*
4 p.m. Post Grad (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Goods (R)

Tuesday, October 13, 2009
7 p.m. Bandslam (PG)

Wednesday, October 14, 2009
7 p.m. Funny People (R)

Thursday, October 15, 2009
7 p.m. G-Force (PG)

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

1997 Honda Integra
Black 2-door dependable car. Has sliding sun roof, a CD player and custom sound, cold A/C, automatic transmission, power windows, power locks and custom wheels. JCI good until November 2010. Asking \$2,800 OBO. For more information or to test drive, call 253-2612/4247.

1998 Nissan Serena Minivan
Minivan seats up to 8 with front and rear A/C controls, sliding side door, adjustable seat configuration and new tires. Asking only \$1800. JCI until July 2011. For more information call Lynne or Larry at (home) 253-2516 or (cell) 080-3381-5956 (Please leave a message).

1997 Harley Davidson Sportster
JCI until Oct 2010 and also has Alabama title, so it can be brought back to the states. Extras include leather saddle bags, after

market exhaust, screaming eagle intake, and other spare parts. Asking \$3000 OBO. For more information call (cell) 080-4068-2528.

Miscellaneous

Rosewood furniture
Solid Rosewood dining table with 6 chairs for sale. \$500
Solid Rosewood hutch for sale. \$350
Solid Rosewood coffee table with end table. \$250All pieces were custom made in Hong Kong. For more information, call 253-2612/4247.

Manual treadmill
Treadmill for sale. Asking \$50 OBO. For more information call 253-2171

Sims 2 and Expansion Packs
Sims 2 game for Windows, \$20
Sims 2 Pets expansion, \$15
Sims 2 Open For Business expansion, \$15
Sims 2 Nightlife expansion, \$15

Sims 2 Family Fun Stuff pack, \$10
Sims 2 Glamour Life Stuff pack, \$10
Sims 2 H&M Fashion Stuff pack, \$10
Or \$80 as a set. Willing to negotiate. For more information, call 253-2829.

Jobs

Cat Sitter
For 3 months, Oct-Dec, he has a microchip and his front paws, declawed, he has all shots. Need some one who is loves animals and he is very playful, family homes are okay, he has all accessories, please call 253-2163.

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. For more information or to apply, please call 253-5311.

Housekeeper
Desperately seeking cleaning person. Looking for a cleaning person to come once a week and clean apartment in Building 955. If interested, call 253-2505 or email nbear15@aol.com.

Mess Hall Menu

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

Tuesday
Beef noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, Swiss steak with gravy, szechwan chicken, O'Brien potatoes, noodles Jefferson, french fried cauliflower, broccoli parmesan, brown gravy, cheese biscuit, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake with buttercream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday
Tomato noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, sweet and sour pork, yakisoba hamburger, pork fried rice, brussels sprouts, corn, dinner rolls, peanut butter cookies, sweet potato pie, whipped topping, coconut cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

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

Friday
Beef barley soup, spanish soup, lemon baked fish, el rancho stew, steamed rice, potatoes au gratin, cauliflower combo, black eyed peas, dinner rolls, brown gravy, mixed fruit, apple and cherry turnovers, bread pudding, crisp toffee bars with whipped topping, chocolate pudding
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

AVID program sponsors annual college fair

SHIRLEY COTTLE
AVID COORDINATOR AND HIGH SCHOOL AVID TEACHER

It's that time again. Advancement Via Individual Determination students from M.C. Perry are researching and making posters and pamphlets to represent a college of their choice. On Oct. 22, from 6 - 8 p.m., students from grades 7 - 12 and their teachers, Joann Sellers and Erin Ramey, will be at the Iwakuni Ballroom to answer your questions on many colleges, both nationally and internationally. They have researched and created a stand-up poster board and a pamphlet about a college of their choice.

Other teachers, parents, ladies from the Officers' Spouses' Club and many other base personnel will be there to represent their alma maters as well. In addition, the major college campuses on base, University of Maryland, Central Texas College and University of Phoenix will have representatives to answer questions. Last,

but not least, we will have a recruiter from Lakeland College, Japan Campus, Charlie Stockwell, to represent his school. He speaks fluent Japanese, so if any Japanese and/or Japanese Americans would like to find out information about Lakeland College, he will be able to tell you in person!

The AVID program wants to express its appreciation to the entire base, from parents to command, for supporting our program, whether you help your child create a poster, bake a cake, provide the venue, mentor someone for our Job Shadow Day in the Spring, or help with fundraisers or fun events. We could not do it without you.

If you think you need a change or a boost to be more than you thought you could ever be, come see people who have taken that step to change the course of their lives forever; come check out the AVID College Fair. We hope to see many people take advantage of the opportunity to help build and make dreams come true, just like our students are doing for themselves through the AVID program!

PMO crime prevention announcements concerning Oct. 16 Clarias concert

During the Clarias concert ensure that no children are left unattended and unsupervised. If they are old enough to be in a public area unsupervised ensure their safety by keeping them out of the crowded areas. During our last concert on base, numerous children had to be pulled from the crowd by military police as they were being pushed against the crowd control fence. No unsafe activities will be permitted within the crowd, i.e. mosh pits or

"crowd surfing."
Remember, the legal drinking age is 20. No hard alcohol, nor glass bottles will be permitted. Please drink responsibly and have a designated driver or a good plan to get home safely.
Please maintain accountability of all of your personal items during the concert in order to prevent loss or theft. Ensure you lock your vehicles before leaving them unattended.

Correction: In last week's story regarding changes to the Patriot Express service, it was stated that the new Boeing 757 aircraft providing service for Patriot Express would have 145 economy seats and 45 business class seats. The aircraft has no business class seats and is outfitted with approximately 190 economy seats.



Five - 0 intramural football team poses for a team photograph after their win against the Slayers, 14-6, at the Northside football field here Oct. 2. Thanks to a superb defense, Five - 0 controlled the ball for most of the game, eating up the clock and not letting the Slayers have much of a chance to put any points up early. Five - 0 limited its opponents to no more than eight points per game the entire tournament while remaining undefeated.

Five-0 superb defense locks down competition

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2009 Pre-season Flag Football Tournament came to an end Oct. 2 with Five-O being crowned champions after beating the Slayers 14-6 at the Northside football field here.

Five-O took down the Slayers 14-6 after four quarters on the gridiron.

Thanks to a superb defense, Five-O controlled the ball for most of the game, eating up the clock and not letting the Slayers have much of a chance to put any points up early.

The Slayers did have a few good plays here and there, but they were unable to capitalize on the key plays that would have put points on the board.

"The weather affected our offense a little bit with the ball being slick and traction being bad, but defense wins games and we win on defense," said James Allen, coach, quarterback and safety for Five-O.

The Slayers high point of the game probably came at the coin toss in which they won but deferred to Five-O.

Five-O took early command of the ball in the first half, jumping to a 7-0 lead in the first two minutes and never really looked back.

Allen dropped back and looked deep to give the illusion he was going long then dumped it off to his running back, Kevin Ruidiaz, who went the distance to the end zone to set the tempo of the night.

The Slayers tried to answer back as they marched down field all the way to Five-O's 15, but Allen's quick reflexes and great awareness of the field allowed him to pick off a touchdown-saving pass on the one-yard line.



Five - 0 stacks the line against the Slayers to put pressure on the quarterback and force one of safety James Allen's four interceptions during the championship game of the 2009 Pre-season Flag Football Tournament at the Northside football field here Oct. 2.

"Our defense is going to put us through the season," said Ruidiaz. "We have allowed no more than eight points a game."

Defense was the key to the championship game. Allen finished the game with four picks, two of which were touchdown savers.

"Our defense is good," said Allen. "We have good athletes on this team, and there is really nothing we are going to change."

Five-O came out on top despite not having much of an offensive game due to the weather, but they don't seem to be too concerned, attributing their lack of offense to the poor playing conditions.

"This tournament is a preview of what's going to happen this season," said Allen. "If you want to play in the regular season, you better get ready!"

Building teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership skills



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

A Higashi Junior High School forward splits two defenders during a fast-break play to set up a shot at the goal during Saturday's double-header game against Arsenal at Penny Lake here. The game concluded the third week of the Youth Soccer season. Arsenal is comprised of 13 - 15 year old athletes of differing skill levels who have only been playing together for about three weeks.

Arsenal doesn't take home win but doesn't leave empty handed

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Another week of the 2009 Youth Soccer season came to a close here at the Penny Lake soccer fields Saturday with an unfortunate 4-0 loss for the Arsenal as Higashi Junior High School reigned victorious.

Although Higashi jumped to an early lead, Arsenal kept the ball moving, making Higashi work hard to gain any possession.

"Each team we play is tough," said Christopher Anderson, a coach for Arsenal. "These teams that come here are school and club teams that play year-round. We are asking kids from different abilities and backgrounds to play together in just a few weeks, but they all have responded well to what we have asked of them."

Arsenal's response is due to the amount of children on the team as well as their love of the game.

"The team gave it their all and tried their best," said Matthew Barker, a coach for Arsenal. "You cannot ask for anything more in a game."

Most teams or players would likely get down after falling behind early, but Arsenal stood tall and seemed to rise to the challenge and played with no fear of loss and with great determination.

"They are all enjoying the game, and the majority of the players give 110 percent while they are on the pitch," said Anderson.

Soccer is a very competitive sport, but it is also a sport in which the children are supposed to have fun and learn to be better players.

"Every member, regardless of their actual skill level, is showing marked improvement," said Barker. "They are starting to demonstrate some of the finer skills taught and honed in practice, which as a coach is always nice to see."

Arsenal may very well have the toughest schedule out of the entire youth soccer league.

"We play six different teams," said Barker. "One of which we will travel to Sasebo to play." "The clubs and school teams in Japan are known for their skills in soccer, and they generally have a large pool of applicants and only allow the best of the best to join."

The road for Arsenal is a tough one, but neither the coaches nor the players seem to be worried at all.

"Our goals for the team this season are to build better soccer players than when the season started, and to instill in the children a sense of personal accomplishment and pride in having been a part of the team," Barker said.



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

An Arsenal player beats a Higashi Junior High School mid-fielder to pass the ball up the line during Saturday's game at Penny Lake here. Higashi swept Arsenal 3 - 1 and 4 - 0 in a double-header game for the 13 - 15 year old age division of youth soccer.



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

An Arsenal player gets the better angle on a Higashi Junior High School forward to gain possession and clear the ball up-field to set up a goal shooting opportunity during Saturday's game at Penny Lake here. It was a very competitive and physical game for Arsenal with a final score of 4-0. "The team gave it their all and tried their best," said Matthew Barker, an Arsenal coach. "You can not ask for anything more in a game."