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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 39, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

CFC begins on station

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station personnel joined together Oct. 9 for a 5K run in front of Building 1 in support of the annual Combined Federal Campaign – Overseas.

According to the campaign's official Web site, "CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilians, postal and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world."

There are more than 2,300 participating charities this year, including charities aimed to benefit service members and their families, such as the Wounded Warriors Project, Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, and Ministry to the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy.

Service members can contribute by using the online pledge assistant, credit card giving or the traditional paper pledge form. Service members can make a one-time

SEE **CFC** ON PAGE 3

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Station youth walk to spread awareness

SGT. JOSH COX
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station youth gathered to participate in a walk to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month here Oct. 9.

Children affiliated with Matthew C. Perry Elementary School, the Boys and Girls Club, and Youth and Teen Center were among the participants in the walk.

The first walk was held Oct. 2, and such walks will continue every Friday afternoon in October.

The walks are held in conjunction with ongoing health education programs at the Youth and Teen Center. The Youth and Teen Center sponsors several leadership and service programs for teens, like the Keystone Club and Smart Girls programs.

The awareness gives the children, especially teenage girls, a safe forum to "talk about breast cancer," and "tell us if they have any relatives going through it," said Maida Kroell,

SEE **AWARENESS** ON PAGE 3



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters, filled with clothing and food, line up on the tarmac at Loakan Airport in Baguio City, Philippines on Oct. 11. It took five CH-46 helicopters two trips each to deliver nearly 4,500 family food packets and 2,000 clothing packets. Marines deployed in support of Philippine Bilateral Exercise will be double tasked with the exercise and providing humanitarian relief to flood victims.

MWSS-171 Marines arrive in Philippines

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — The final batch of Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 arrived at Clark Air Base, Philippines, Oct. 6 in support of Philippine Bilateral Exercise (PHIBLEX).

PHIBLEX is a training exercise with the Filipino armed forces aimed toward improving readiness and relations.

"Ultimately, our purpose here is to successfully conduct a bilateral training exercise with the Filipinos," said Capt. Peter E. Ban, S-3 officer in charge. "As a support squadron we want to facilitate that in ad-

dition to promoting goodwill between the United States and the Philippines."

According to Ban, the nearly 400 Marines and sailors from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni will be in the Philippines for roughly a month.

The majority of service members participating in the exercise are a part of MWSS-171. Elements of Combat Logistics Company 36, Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 are also participating in the exercise but are not playing a dominate role.

"MWSS-171 is executing all 14 functions

SEE **PHIBLEX** ON PAGE 3

Red Ribbon Week: 'United as one to make a difference'

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

From Oct. 19 - 23, the station will recognize and participate in Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is the largest and oldest drug-prevention campaign in the United States.


Red Ribbon Week began after the kidnapping, torture and brutal murder of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985.

On Feb. 7, 1985, he was kidnapped in broad daylight on a street in Guadalajara, Mexico, and was tortured and beat to death soon after.

Camarena enlisted in the Marines in 1972 and spent two years in the Corps before joining the DEA.

The nationwide "Red Ribbon Campaign," which teaches school kids to avoid drug use, was started in his memory.

SEE **RIBBON** ON PAGE 3



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

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Courage to be loyal’


LT. CMDR. ALLEN R. KUSS
MCAS COMMAND CHAPLAIN

In the Book of Proverbs, we read, “What is desirable in a person is loyalty, and it is better to be poor than a liar.” Almost every commanding officer I have had the honor to serve with has informed their officers that loyalty was expected and greatly valued, both up and down the chain of command. Every commander and legitimate authority needs the loyalty of those under their authority and responsibility. Without loyalty, the mission cannot be accomplished, the leader is ineffectual and expectations go unfulfilled. Loyalty is defined as faithful-ness to one’s oath, commitments or obligations. Military personnel take an oath in which we give our allegiance to defend the Constitution of the United States against enemies,

foreign and domestic; to carry out the orders of the President and those appointed over us, and to obey the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are trained to understand that our oath obligates us to trustworthiness, reliability and devoted service to our nation. These are expressions of our loyalty. Psychiatrist Dr. Carl Men-ninger wrote, “Loyalty means not that I am you, or that I agree with everything you say or that I believe you are always right. Loyalty means that I share a common ideal with you and that regardless of minor differences, we fight for it, shoulder to should-er, confident in one another’s good faith, trust, constancy and affection.” There is also a distortion of loyalty. Even thieves and criminals have their codes of loyalty to each other. We can be loyal to another as a means of manipulation, out of fear of rejection or retaliation, or for selfish personal gain. Mis-

guided allegiance and devotion to an individual person over an institution’s values and prin-ciples is dangerous and a breach of our oath. Examples of false loyalty can be turning a blind eye to fraud, failure to report a theft, denial of marital infidelity, remaining silent against wrong doing. We instinctively understand the opposite of loyalty: unfaithful-ness, untrustworthiness, treach-ery and sedition. Loyalty is demanding and chal-lenging, but who among us wants to live or work in an environment where the opposite is common-place? Our nation rightly expects us to uphold the oath we took upon entering the military, rewards us with the resources we need and respects our military service. It is a befitting quality for every person. From ancient times, it has been highly prized. May you have the courage to be loyal to your oaths and receive the benefits and blessings which flow from them.

Mess hall celebrates Navy birthday



Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major, helps serve chow at the Southside mess hall here for the Navy birthday meal Oct. 8. Station personnel enjoyed grilled steak, boiled crab legs, french-fried shrimp and teriyaki chicken in celebration of the Navy’s 234th birthday. See the story and photographs from the Navy Birthday Ball on pages 6-7.

Upcoming Crime Prevention Awareness Month events

- Oct. 19**
6:30 - 7:30 a.m. PMO will pass out red ribbons at the main gate.
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. PMO will present a crime prevention table with materials in front of Crossroads Mall.
Oct. 20
7:30 - 8 a.m. PMO will talk about laws of the road in regards to alcohol abuse in support of Red Ribbon Week live on AFN.

- Oct. 21**
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. McGruff and Daren will host a Red Ribbon event at Crossroads Mall.
Oct. 22
6:30 - 7:30 a.m. PMO will pass out red ribbons at the Monzen Gate.
10 - 10:30 a.m. McGruff and MP will read to children at the station library.
12:15 - 1 p.m. McGruff and Daren will have lunch at the high school (ages 13-15).



Station youth participate in a walk to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month here Oct. 9. The first walk was held Oct. 2, and walks will continue every Friday afternoon in October.

Walk for breast cancer awareness

AWARENESS FROM PAGE 1
a lead program assistant with the Youth and Teen Center. The awareness also encourages children to remind their parents to take preventative action against the disease. “I think it’s a great program. I think it’s good to raise the awareness, especially in the younger girls,” said Vee McCay, a lead program assistant with the Youth and Teen Center. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “aside from non-melanoma skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women.” In 2005, 186,467 women and 1,764 men were diagnosed with

breast cancer. 41,116 women and 375 men died from breast cancer in the same year. McCay said the awareness is important because breast cancer has been known to strike at an early age in some people, and even in young men. “A lot of males think they can’t get it, but a lot of males can get breast cancer,” McCay added. For more information about upcoming Breast Cancer Awareness Walks, contact Marine Corps Community Services at 253-5549. For more information about Breast Cancer, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at cdc.gov.

Wear red ribbon to fight drugs, save lives

RIBBON FROM PAGE 1
“This year we are coming together as one to make a difference,” said Erica Ramos, risk reduction assistant here. “It’s our third annual year having the Red Ribbon anti-drug campaign here at MCAS Iwakuni.” The first event will be the distribution of red ribbons by counseling staff members at the main gate here Monday. Wear your red ribbon for the week in support of a drug-free lifestyle. “We are going to have a lot of different events going on through the week to provide outreach and prevention and education for the Marines in the community,” said Ramos. Along with passing out red ribbons, there will also be live radio interviews regarding various drug and alcohol-related subjects by guest speakers. “The Provost Marshal’s Office is actually getting involved because it’s crime prevention month, so we are trying to do Corps-related services for the community,” said Ramos. On Wednesday, American Forces Network is scheduled to conduct a live radio show at the Crossroads Mall to get the community in-

involved and also allow the community to express their opinions over the station’s radio station. “We are going to be out there for patrons to utilize the drunken goggles and walk the line to see how their judgment and reaction time (are) impaired when using alcohol,” said Ramos. At the end of the week, there is the 3rd Annual Red Ribbon Fun Run scheduled to kick-off noon Friday at the parade deck. Last year there were about 500 participants who took part in the run. The run is open to all service members and station community members. Participants can walk or run the course. The run has been increased from one and a half miles to a 5K run due to a few complaints last year that it was too short. “We have a lot of different events. We are going to be at the main gates passing out flyers and red ribbons two days out of the week,” said Ramos. “People can wear their red ribbon to show their pledge or commitment to a drug-free lifestyle, or they can wear red during the week.” For additional information on the Red Ribbon Week or how to volunteer, call Marine and Family Services at 253-3779.

PHIBLEX kicks off

PHIBLEX FROM PAGE 1
of aviation ground support; we are executing all of our (doctrinal) missions,” said Ban. MWSS-171’s services include everything from aircraft rescue and firefighting to field mess and laundry services. In addition to participating in the exercise, the Marines from MWSS-171 will be refurbishing a schoolhouse. “We are out here doing what Marines do best, helping people,” said Sgt. Jason L. Stacy, the Operations noncommissioned officer for MWSS-171. “Helping the Filipinos out always gives me such a great sense of accomplishment.” A number of community relations projects planned to occur during PHIBLEX have been cancelled or “lost in translation.” The community relations cut back is a result of uncertainty of whether PHIBLEX would even happen. Flooding in Manila from multiple typhoons almost turned the entire exercise into a humanitarian mission. “Our tasks are pretty clear; our intent is to execute the exercise as planned,” said Ban. “That doesn’t mean we won’t continue to assist in the relief effort. It just means we will be double tasking. This coming month we will be showing what we do best as Marines and as a squadron. It’s going to be pretty amazing to watch everyone demonstrate their full spectrum of capabilities. This is their moment to shine, and I have full faith that they will.”



Runners take off from the starting line during the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign 5K run in front of Building 1 here Oct. 9. The CFC is an annual campaign in which service members can support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. The overseas campaign season runs from Oct. 5 through Dec. 4.

CFC FROM PAGE 1
donation or opt to have allotments automatically taken from their payroll. Aside from being able to make donations to national and internationally-qualified charities, service members can also donate funds to family support and youth programs sponsored by their base or installation. In 2008, the CFC – O raised over \$15.8 million. The 2009 campaign season runs from Oct. 5 through Dec. 4. For more information on the CFC – O, a list of charities and how to donate, visit the CFC – O Web site at www.cfcoverseas.org.



SGT. ROBERT DURHAM

A group of orks line up for an attack during a game of Warhammer 40,000 played by the Iwakuni Community Gaming Club here. These models are only about an inch and a half tall, but are highly detailed and hand-painted. Gamers use miniature representations of units to play games such as Warhammer 40K and can sometimes spend days assembling and painting just one figure.

War can just be game: Iwakuni gamers face off to fight

SGT. ROBERT DURHAM
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Huddled around a table in the activities room of Building 658 here, a few Marine sergeants and civilians try to determine their next plan of attack. For today, they have been promoted to generals. Each commander's mind was bent on pushing the will of his army to attack and defend the ruined landscape arranged before him.

This is war, or rather Warhammer 40,000, a world of strategy mixed with a bit of luck.

Twice a month, painstakingly hand-painted forces gather on the detailed miniature battlefields as the antagonists battle each other for bragging rights in an attempt to wholesomely spend a Sunday afternoon fighting it out as friends.

The Iwakuni Community Gaming Club consists of members interested in several types of tabletop conflicts.

Warhammer 40,000, or Warhammer 40K as it's called by the salty players, is the mainstay of the group. It is a game that has evolved over several years from an extremely complicated and difficult conundrum into a fun, fairly easy to learn hobby with tens of thousands of fans throughout the world.

But the club also dabbles in other, smaller strategy games, including "Blood Bowl," a combat football game, and "Battletech," a large-scale combat game revolving around futuristic giant robots called "mechs."

The club was founded two years ago by Marine Corps Community Services supply technician Eric Perez.

"Basically, we're open to all games. Any type of tabletop game or role-playing game, card game, we'll encompass it all. The gaming club is a generalized club. We're not looking for any certain type of game that's out there. We specialize in 40K because that's what most of us are interested in. There are other games we play, but they aren't as popular," said Perez.

"It initially started with three or four of

us, and we would get together at my house. But we needed a bigger place, so we started reserving the community rooms. Once we got about six people, we thought we might as well form a club," said Perez.

At first, a new arrival to the group may feel that the more experienced players are speaking some sort of foreign language consisting of acronyms and numbers. It can

For Warhammer 40K, most experienced players have their own custom built, hand-painted army made up of miniatures from various "factions" in accordance with the games' rules. Newbies are not expected to show up with their own army, as there are plenty of model armies to experiment with before a player commits himself or herself to the extensive, time-consuming task of purchasing and assembling his or her own forces to throw into combat.

"That's the only negative part about the hobby is it is a little expensive, but once you get your army set up, you don't have to spend a lot of money. It's not like the card game "Magic" where you have to keep buying booster packs. Once you have your army the way you want it, you're done."

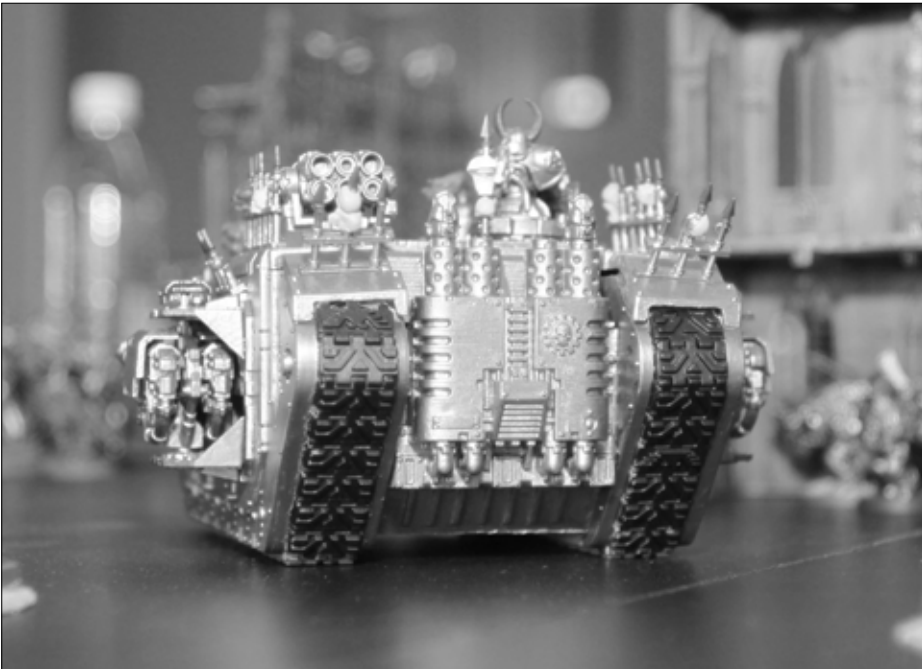
The more experienced players are happy to spend any amount of time necessary going over the rules and fighting skirmishes with newcomers until they feel comfortable with the slang, theory and tactics of the game.

"That's how we keep the game going. You can't expect people to pick it up on their own. It's a great way to meet people, and it's fun," said Sgt. Nicholas Lee, an Air Traffic Control technician with Marine Air Control Squadron 4 here.

For many Warhammer 40K fans, this is more than just a game. It is a full-fledged hobby. Some participants get just as much of a thrill assembling their army as they do entering into miniature combat. One player may have his models painted with just a few unique marks, while others spend hours assembling and painting just one figure. To become good at the latter requires a bit of patience.

"Painting isn't necessary, but it's something you can look down at and have a feeling of accomplishment. Let's face it, a lot of people who have an army will never have a completely painted army, so when you show up with one, it's awesome."

For more information about participating in the Iwakuni Community Gaming Club, e-mail iwakunigamers@gmail.com.



SGT. ROBERT DURHAM

A painted, armored vehicle model awaits its move during the table game Warhammer 40,000 played by members of the Iwakuni Community Gaming Club here. Players use miniature representations of units in the game. These miniatures can be very small or quite large. Most models are painstakingly hand-painted before being used as gamepieces.

be overwhelming at first, but all a potential table gamer needs to do is pay attention to the game, and the rules will probably seem to unfold and make sense rather quickly.

"Warhammer 40K revolves around three major concepts: movement, shooting and close combat. Everything after that is pretty much learned by experience. You can sit there and read a rulebook all you want, but until you get there and move some models around, you can't really learn as far as 40K is concerned."

The components of most of the games played here are fairly simple. All one needs are some dice, a tape measure, a few templates for measuring distance and good sportsmanship.



SGT. RICARDO A. GOMEZ

U.S. Navy MH-60S helicopter crew of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 conducts pre-flight inspections here Oct. 5. The squadron conducts training here while the USS Essex is in port aboard U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo to maintain operational readiness.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

COMPILED
COMBAT CAMERA

Combat cameraman Sgt. Ricardo A. Gomez joined U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Detachment 6, during a search and rescue training exercise here Oct. 5.

The MH-60S helicopter squadron conducts training

here while the USS Essex is in port aboard U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo to maintain operational readiness.

After conducting routine pre-flight briefs and maintenance inspections, the crew flew over the Pacific Ocean conducting the drills. The aircraft also practiced landing on an outlying island in the Pacific during the exercise.



SGT. RICARDO A. GOMEZ

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 pilots and crew conduct a pre-flight brief here Oct. 5.



SGT. RICARDO A. GOMEZ

Lt. J.g. Jake Efrid of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 conducts pre-flight inspections on a MH-60S helicopter here Oct. 5.



SGT. RICARDO A. GOMEZ

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gerald Bowling of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 lowers a life preserver during a search and rescue drill aboard an MH-60S helicopter here Oct. 5.



SGT. RICARDO A. GOMEZ

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Shawn Downing of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 listens to pilots speaking over a headset during flight Oct. 5.

Navy remembers, celebrates 234 years of history

Sailors, Marines gather at Navy Ball to embrace naval lineage, traditions

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Two hundred and thirty-four years ago, England was the commanding power at sea and held sovereignty over the 13 British North American colonies.

England, wanting to hold its power over the colonies, stopped its sea trade and wreaked destruction upon the colonial seaside settlements.

When a motion to build an American naval fleet was raised before the Second Continental Congress, many of the delegates considered it a bold and foolish move, defying the might of the British Navy.

Samuel Chase, a delegate of Maryland, said it was "the maddest idea in the world to think of building an American fleet."

On Oct. 13, 1775, the United States Navy was born when the Continental Congress voted to arm two sailing vessels and sent them out to challenge the strongest naval force the world had ever known.

Station service members gathered at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 9 to honor and commemorate the Navy's birthday and history.

The theme for this year's ball was, "remembering our past to secure our futures."

"The significance of the Navy Ball is allowing the Navy personnel to celebrate the 234 years of proud service that we've accomplished for our country," said Chief Petty Officer Adrian R. Figueroa, Navy Ball master of ceremonies. "We have a lot of history."

Figueroa said it's important for Navy personnel to remember their history so they can continue to keep the level of excellence the U.S. Navy is known for.

The memory of the Navy's historic battles and acts came alive as six side boys took their place, and a boatswain's mate trilled his pipe, signaling the start of Navy Ball's opening ceremonies.

Service members recalled naval traditions as they observed the traditional cutting of the cake, the ringing of the ship's bell and the parading of the colors.

"The Navy ball is a great time-

honored tradition that everybody should participate in," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mary Punzalan, Navy ball secretary.

"It's a way to bring camaraderie amongst the leadership all the way down to the junior sailors. It's a time for everyone to get together and celebrate their military, their background," she added.

Punzalan said celebrating the Navy birthday was celebrating the way of life it has provided for its sailors and everyone in the United States.

When the first two American vessels set sail against British power 234 years ago, they set sail to secure the future of a young nation with an uncertain future.

That future and way of life was steadily secured time and again as the Navy fought fiery battles, like the Battles of Lake Erie, Hampton Roads, Manila Bay and Midway.

As the Navy continued to write its history with fire and cannons, its records were inscribed with the acts of men like Capt. John Paul Jones who, when he was called to surrender during the Battle of Flamborough Head, yelled back in defiance "We have not yet begun to fight!"

Sailors and Marines gathered at the ball, toasting and cheering a proud heritage filled with the memory of those past events.

"This is one of the first balls I've actually been to, and I regret not going to the past ones," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Teran Robinson, Navy ball boatswain's mate. "Just to get this kind of environment together with everyone celebrating one cause, one reason is nice."

Robinson said celebrating the Navy birthday and its history is remembering and honoring what its sailors live and die for, and as long as there's a U.S. Navy, it's something worth celebrating.

The U.S. Navy was born in a time when the fate of nations was decided by battles at sea, and in those times, it was America's top fighting force.

Today it continues to be a vital military force as it provides nuclear strength, and air and ground support through its carriers.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Commemorative coins enclosed in decorated boxes were placed on the tables for attendees of the 2009 Navy Ball at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 09. Sailors and Marines gathered at the ball to celebrate the birth of the United States Navy and to embrace its traditions. The U.S. Navy was first born Oct. 13, 1775 when the Second Continental Congress voted to arm two sailing vessels and sent them out to face the British Navy. At the time, many considered the creation of an American naval fleet as an absurd idea since Britain had the strongest force the world had ever known.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Petty Officer 3rd Class Teran Robinson, Navy ball boatswain's mate, trills his pipe, calling all-hands to attention for the arrival of the official party during the opening ceremonies of the 2009 Navy Ball at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 9. The use of the boatswain's pipe for salutes and passing orders is one of the oldest naval customs.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

Capt. Jimmy Saiku, the oldest sailor at the ball and Seaman Apprentice Jamael Rivera, the youngest sailor at the ball participate in the cutting of the cake ceremony during the 2009 Navy Ball at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 9.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

A sailor observes a moment of silence in honor of departed shipmates and absent service members fighting abroad during the opening ceremonies of the 2009 Navy Ball, hosted at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 9. A total of 20 bells were rung during the moment of silence in honor of shipmates who could not be there and in reverence to the memory of sailors before them.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Sailors look at a 1942 United States Navy jumper blue top and cover displayed during the 2009 Navy Ball at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 9. The theme of this year's ball was "remembering our past to secure our futures."



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Navy Ball attendees stand to their feet as United States service members parade in the colors during the opening ceremonies of the 2009 Navy Ball hosted at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 9. Among some of the Navy traditions observed during the evening was the trilling of the boatswain's pipe and the cutting of the cake between the oldest and youngest sailor present.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — The blast of an 81-mm mortar round shoots into the night sky as six mortar teams fire away to pummel simulated enemy forces counterattacking their positions Sept. 27.



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Cpl. Jerrid Mangham is carried by his platoon mates to a medical evacuation vehicle after becoming a simulated casualty during the assault at Range 210 Sept. 25.

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Mojave Viper strikes again

SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
1ST BATTALION (1/3)

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.

— The Lava Dogs of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, concluded the second phase of the Clear, Hold, Build Exercise here Monday after five days of combined arms urban operations.

Companies Alpha, Bravo and Charlie of 1/3, along with attachments from Weapons Company and other reinforcements, each cycled through Range 210 for two days as part of their Enhanced Mojave Viper predeployment training here. Having already completed the platoon-level CHB-1 exercise, CHB-2 tested each company as a whole.

Marines conducted a live fire assault toward the town using amphibious assault vehicles to transport Marines, M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks to push through and blast away enemy positions, and artillery and mortars to hit objectives from a distance.

Once the company's assault element reached the city streets, three platoons of Marines poured from the AAVs to clear each building of enemy targets and force the enemy to fight or flee.

Next, the Marines dug in for the night for the "hold" portion of the exercise, creating a secure perimeter and maintaining control of the town's buildings.

After sunset, "Coyote" exercise controllers from the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group announced an enemy counterattack to take back the town. Marines tore away at targets in the distance from their positions with machine gun, rocket and individual rifle fire.

As enemy vehicles were sighted ahead of them, the Lava Dogs

pummeled them with 81-mm mortar fire and intense machine gun fire. Illumination flares lit the night sky with a dull yellow glow as they floated over the targets, giving Marines an advantage in the dark while red tracer rounds streaked from machine guns and sparks flew from the metal targets when hit.

As the fight progressed, close air support was called in and the roar of an FA-18 Hornet was heard overhead as it released a joint direct attack munitions bomb onto the enemy position, lighting up the desert with its fireball and shaking the concrete structures with the blast.

Minutes later, the "thwopt-hwopt" of an AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter was heard closing in. It released multiple tubelaunched, optically-tracked, wire-guided missiles at the enemy, glowing-hot shrapnel exploded dozens of feet into the night like fireworks. On each pass, the Cobra delivered a punishing dose of gun fire on the vehicles, each round streaking through the sky from above with red tracers.

Once the fight was won, Marines settled in for the night, maintaining their posts and occupying the town. When dawn came, Pashtu-speaking role players approached the town to speak to the Marines.

This "build" portion of the exercise tested each company's ability to interact successfully with the city's key leadership and residents with respect to their language, cultural and civil needs.

Marines worked through their assigned linguists to help rebuild infrastructure of the town and to return control to its rightful inhabitants.

The Lava Dogs will soon begin the CHB-3 exercise and test their skills operating at the battalion level.



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Machine guns fire red tracer rounds at enemy vehicles with an illumination flare overhead.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wandering Scholar Presentation

A presentation by Dr. Nick Zoa of his travels throughout India will be held at Bldg. 411 Rm. 117 today Oct. 16 from noon to 1 p.m. It will include a PowerPoint slide show of majestic India and offers insight into the culture and heritage. For more information, call the University of Maryland University College at 253-3392.

Motorcycle Riders

All sport bike riders who have not completed the Motorcycle Safety Foundation sport bike rider's course must do so before Nov. 1. Failure to do so will result in revocation of motorcycle

license. For more information, call 253-6381.

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

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 until Nov. 13. Club Iwakuni and Torii Pines Golf Course will remain open for regular business hours

during this time.

Iwakuni Teens
Join us for Club Beyond every Tuesday night. Enjoy games, music, food and fun plus a short Bible lesson. Club is held in Yujo Hall, between the chapel and thrift shop, 6:30 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

M.C. Perry High School switches over to electronic progress reports

Starting this year, Matthew C. Perry High School will not be printing out progress reports for all of their students. Currently, almost 95 percent of parents have access to GradeSpeed, and parents are able to receive almost daily progress on their child's performance. Those who do not have access to GradeSpeed or would still like to receive a paper copy can come to the high school office and will be assisted in setting up an account or be printed

off their child's grade. It takes time for teachers to grade assignments and tests, but if parents have any questions about their child's assignments or tests, they can also directly e-mail their child's teacher. If parents have any other concerns about their child's progress, they should take the opportunity to e-mail or call the school to set up a chance to meet their child's teacher or can contact the the principal at 253-5449.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, October 16, 2009
7 p.m. Funny People (R)
Last Showing

Saturday, October 17, 2009
1 p.m. Shorts (PG)
Premier
4 p.m. The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13)
7 p.m. Post Grad (PG-13)
10 p.m. The Hurt Locker (R)

Sunday, October 18, 2009
1 p.m. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (PG)
4 p.m. Surrogate (PG-13)
7 p.m. District 9 (R)

Monday, October 19, 2009
7 p.m. G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG-13)
Last Showing

Tuesday, October 20, 2009
7 p.m. The Hurt Locker (R)
Last Showing

Wednesday, October 21, 2009
7 p.m. The Informant (R)
Last Showing

Thursday, October 22, 2009
7 p.m. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (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

1999 Mazda MPV
Minivan with GPS, DVD/CD player, rear T.V., second row captains chairs, fold down third row and great A/C. 74,400 KM. Recently serviced. JCI good until Aug. 2010. Must sell by Nov. 10. Asking \$3,500 OBO. For more information, call 253-2967 or 080-4170-2465.

1997 Honda Integra
Black 2 -door dependable car. Has Sliding sun roof, a CD player and custom sound, cod A/C, automatic transmittion, 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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, chalupa, pot roast, steamed rice, parsley butter potatoes, corn on the cob, cauliflower au gratin, mushroom gravy, jalapeno corn bread, macaroni salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping, double layer banana cake, butter cream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday
Minestrone soup, tomato soup, New Port fried chicken, lasagna, spinach lasagna, mashed potatoes, Southern style greens, mixed vegetables, chicken or turkey gravy, garlic bread, potato salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake, buttercream frosting, coconut cream pies.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday
Chicken and rice soup, egg drop soup, sweet and sour chicken, yakisoba, egg foo yung, Chinese egg rolls, pork fried rice, steamed rice, corn O'Brien, vegetable stir fry, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spring salad, standard salad bar, chocolate drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, lemon buttercream frosting, blueberry pie.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday
Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, chicken kiev, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, canned cream style corn, french fried cauliflower, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, pineapple upsidedown cake, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Deli Sandwich

Friday
Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, roast turkey, breaded pork chops, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, club spinach, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, turkey gravy, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double layer German chocolate cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

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

Free Cat
Three and a half month old, litter box trained cat needs a good home.
For more information, please call 080-4068-2528.

Items for Sale
55 Inch Mitsubishi HD TV, \$500
Coffee table with flip lid for storage and matching dark colored end tables, \$150

Stereo system with Pioneer receiver, JVC 5 disc changer and 2 klipsch stand up speakers with subwoofers, \$150
Blue Little Tykes Race car bed, \$50
For more information, call 253-2967 or 080-4170-2465.

Jobs

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 additional information or to apply for this opportunity, 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. Tasks to 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.

Financial advice: New car purchasing tips

BONNIE LEWIS
PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGER

I talk to many people who are planning to purchase a new vehicle when they leave Japan and PCS back to the states. I teach a car buying class quarterly to discuss different issues to keep in mind. Here are a few suggestions to help you save money on your next vehicle purchase:

First of all, remember you are going to lose COLA when you rotate back to the states. Call your Personal Financial Manager, Bonnie Lewis, at 253-6250, to sit down and prepare a projected budget based on what you will be making when you leave Japan. Make sure you do not purchase a vehicle that you cannot afford.

Salespeople work on commission; they are not concerned if you can afford to make that vehicle payment once you rotate. What they are concerned about is making that sale and getting their commission. Don't use your current income as a gauge of what you can afford to pay when you leave. If you have some time before you rotate, consider saving for a vehicle purchase in a CD (certificate of deposit) account at Navy Federal or USAA. You can have your bank transfer money each payday into this type of account and you can label it "New Car Fund."

Do not be fooled into what some dealerships label as a "Savings Plan." With these types of plans, you give the dealership your money each month and they hold it and gain interest, instead of you receiving the interest. Some may say that you are earning interest, but what they are actually giving you is a rebate of maybe \$500, but that is not interest. If you saved your money yourself, you could negotiate your best deal and save much more than the \$500 rebate their program offers. Don't let yourself get locked into

one particular seller.

When it comes to financing, I suggest applying for a Pre-Approved Loan. You should compare rates to ensure you are getting the lowest interest rate possible. You can get a Pre-Approved Loan from Navy Federal or USAA. With a Pre-Approval you will be issued a check that is good for a specific period of time (usually 30-60 days) and you will know how much you are approved to spend. This does not mean that you have to take the whole amount you are approved for. If you are approved for \$20,000 and you write the check out for \$13,549, your loan will be for \$13,549. Again, make sure you stay within your budget.

The October 2009 issue of Consumer Reports has an excellent article on car buying with many great online sites to check out. Listed below are a few of the online resources.

Free calculators are available at www.consumerreports.org/calculators, to determine which is better, a rebate or low-interest financing.

Cars.com or Edmunds.com will help you determine if there are any rebates or hold-backs given to the dealerships from the automakers. Knowing this information will help you determine if you are actually being quoted the lowest price possible from the dealership. It will also help you in comparing dealership prices. Make sure you shop around at different dealerships and get competitive bids.

ConsumerReports.org/autocrisis will give you information on tax deductions offered for purchasing a new car between Feb. 17 and Dec. 31st 2009. There are limits so check this site out for details.

Green-car tax credits are also available on some hybrid, diesel or natural gas models. Check out www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxcenter.shtml for eligible models.

Terminators fall to Hi-Lighters 3-0

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Another week of the Youth Soccer season came to an end here at the Penny Lake soccer fields Oct. 8 where the Hi-Lighters fell to the Terminators 3-0.

The Hi-Lighters have only lost one other game this season and tied two, which leaves them at the top of the standings and well in front of the rest of the pack but just behind the Unknown, who have one more game won.

For the most part, the purpose of the match-ups are not to win or lose but rather to go out and have a good time. However, for the 10-12 year old age division, it is more than that.

With most players having some experience in soccer, they tend to play a little bit more competitive than the younger age groups.

"Recreation soccer is difficult in the sense that you have several new players to the game," said Christopher Anderson, coach of 13-15 year old division's Arsenal.



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
Terminators player David Rasmussen clears the ball up the line to prevent a goal during a game against the Hi-Lighters Oct. 8 at the Penny Lake fields. The Hi-Lighters won 3 - 0, leaving them with a 6 - 2 - 2 record as of Oct. 10.



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
A Hi-Lighters player Justin Hill takes a corner kick during a game against the Terminators Oct. 8 at the Penny Lake soccer fields. The Hi-Lighters won 3 - 0, leaving them with a 6 - 2 - 2 record and the Terminators with a 5 - 3 - 2 record as of Oct. 10. Playoffs are scheduled to begin Thursday.



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
Terminators player Emily Pelletier does some fancy foot work to keep the ball away from two Hi-Lighters defenders during a game Oct. 8 at the Penny Lake soccer fields. The Hi-Lighters won 3 - 0, leaving them with a 6 - 2 - 2 record and the Terminators with a 5 - 3 - 2 record as of Oct. 10. Playoffs are scheduled to begin Thursday.

Youth Soccer 10 - 12 year old division game standings as of Oct. 10

Team	# of games	Won	Lost	Draw
Hi-Lighters	10	6	2	2
Rough necks	9	1	7	1
Iwakuni Unlimited	9	2	6	1
Terminators	10	5	3	2
The Unknown	10	7	3	0

Red Ribbon Run

United As One to Make A Difference

5K Drug and
Alcohol Awareness
Fun Run/Walk

Friday, Oct. 23,
from noon - 2 p.m.
on the Parade Deck



We welcome all service members, civilians and families to participate in the annual fun run/walk to support community efforts to increase drug and alcohol awareness. Giveaways at the end of the run.
Marine and Family Counseling Services, 253-4526