

**MAG-12 FACES-OFF**

Marines have field meet in honor of
Marine Corps Birthday | P. 6, 7

FEATURE**TURKEY BOWL**

8th Annual Football
Tournament | P.12

FEATURE

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 42, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Get educated: Ins, outs of Post 9/11, Montgomery GI Bills

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A good mind is a terrible thing to waste, but failing to maximize GI Bill benefits is just plain foolish.

Although most service members still have plenty of time to make a decision, at some point they will need to decide whether or not to opt into the Post 9/11 GI Bill or remain under the Montgomery GI Bill.

While this article will serve as a down-and-dirty guide explaining important differences, there is no way to account for every possible nuance in a person's situation.

For most people, opting into the Post 9/11 GI Bill will give the best benefits; however, there are ways to make the Montgomery GI Bill more beneficial.

Here are the top 9 things to keep in mind:

1 - Plan ahead.

Although this cannot be emphasized enough, if you take nothing else from this article, planning ahead is the most important step when it comes to using any GI Bill benefits.

Planning will allow you to maximize your benefits.

2 - Verify coverage with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Once a plan has been created, individuals should check to ensure they will be covered under the GI Bill they plan to use.

3 - How the different bills can be used:

The Post 9/11 GI Bill can only be used when working toward a degree, undergraduate or graduate.

For career choices requiring certification tests, the Post 9/11 GI Bill will only pay for one test.

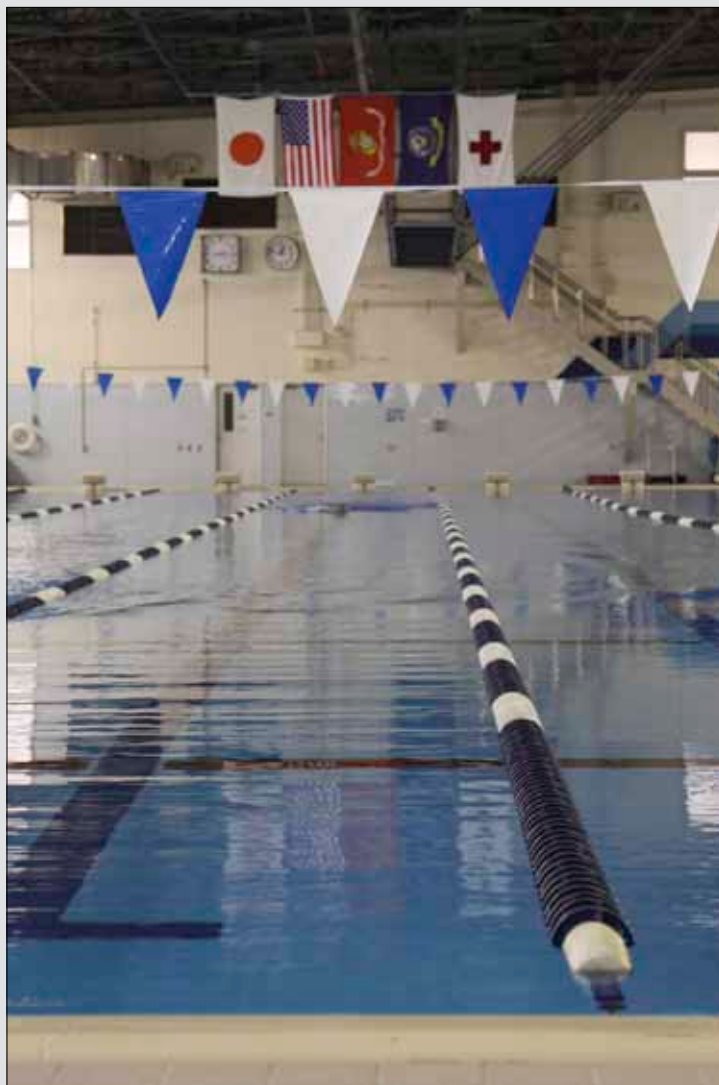
The Montgomery GI Bill can be used for non-college degree programs, on-the-job and apprenticeship training, flight training, licensing and certification, national testing programs, entrepreneurship training, co-op training, tuition assistance top up and tutorial assistance.

Some of the latter could be covered under the Post 9/11 GI Bill but only if it is part of a degree;

SEE **EDUCATION** ON PAGE 3

IronWorks Gym indoor pool now open

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

The IronWorks Gym indoor pool reopened Nov. 4 after four months of renovations. The project cost \$1,176,720.70 and was funded by Headquarters Marine Corps.

The IronWorks Gym indoor pool here reopened Nov. 4 after four months of renovations.

The original renovation plan was to replace the pool's heat exchangers and more than 200 floor tiles. Those plans were expanded soon after to include Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act compliant drain covers, new pool liners, pool-side benches and heated floor tiles around the entire pool area.

"The main pool had numerous cracks in the shell, many floor tiles were cracked, and although our drain covers were determined to be in compliance with the (Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety) Act and were safe, the decision was made to install the new drain covers," said Stephanie Brown, IronWorks Gym aquatics director.

The entire project cost \$1,176,720.70 and was funded by Headquarters Marine Corps.

"(Community members) have been very pleased with the outcome and were very patient during the renovations," said Brown.

Units looking to use the pool for physical fitness training, such as water polo, water basketball and lap swimming, should notify the IronWorks Gym Aquatics Department and fill out a reservation form at least 24 hours in advance.

The pool offers several other training classes, including Professional Association of Diving Instructors scuba, Marine Corps instructor water safety, group and private swimming, and American Red Cross lifeguard, lifeguard

SEE **POOL** ON PAGE 3

Friendship concert crosses barriers

SGT. JOSH COX
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A fall evening filled with music, culture and friendship attracted a diverse audience at the station chapel here Nov. 6.

The station's third annual Japanese and American Friendship Concert featured performances by local musicians, as well as distinguished guest artists from around Japan.

"We think it's incredibly impor-

tant for American and Japanese people to come together, and this concert brings an international language to help us do just that," said station chaplain Lt. Robert Mills, who coordinated the event and performed at the concert.

The evening began with a piano medley orchestrated by Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's own Lt. Cmdr. John Cometa, station chaplain, who also performed a few songs with a ukulele.

Additional performances by folk singer Jiro Mouri, soprano Hisako Ikeda, pianist Chiho Uesugi and baritone Robert Mills astounded recital guests.

During an intermission, Ma-

chiko Hamamoto, affectionately known as "Mama-San," and Torao Okuda, commonly known as "Tiger-San," were honored for their decades of volunteer service to the MCAS community.

According to Mills, the two guests of honor reflected the ongoing friendship the concert encouraged.

After the intermission, concert guests admired classic pieces like Gounod's "Ave Maria" and Debussy's "Claire de Lune."

Following the final piece of the evening performed by Ikeda, the audience and artists shared

SEE **CONCERT** ON PAGE 3



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

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. J. Lawton King

Public Affairs Chief
Master Gunnery Sgt.
John A. Cordero

Operations Chief
Staff Sgt. Andrew Miller

Press Chief
Sgt. Josh Cox

Managing Editor
Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

Editor
Cpl. Kristin E. Moreno

Combat Correspondents
Sgt. Robert Durham
Lance Cpl. Miranda Blackburn
Lance Cpl. Chris Kutlesa
Lance Cpl. Claudio A. Martinez
Lance Cpl. Salvador Moreno

Webmaster
Yukie Wada

Community/Media Relations
Hiroko Soriki
Hiromi M. Kawamoto

Administration
Hiro Sumida

“This weekly newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed overseas and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps, and does not imply endorsement thereof.”

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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.

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

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

SMOKING SPICE NOT SO NICE

LT. CMDR. DENIS N. COX
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

Touted as the “new generation” of marijuana alternatives, the herbal blend called Spice has become a popular source for recreational smoking.

Spice was originally used as incense and became popular when someone looked at it and thought, “I wonder if I can smoke that?”

Since the person didn’t die and felt a slight buzz because of it, it soon hit the market as a “legal” substitute for marijuana.

Since 2002, Spice has become popular and is a big seller among young people. The Internet has allowed for worldwide distribution of the product.

There are currently no laws governing its distribution, customs laws or medical definitions.

It’s so new that only young people know about it, and old

people don’t know what they believe about it.

Several drug companies have tried to test Spice and see what’s in it. So far, the only conclusion is that Spice is not made of what the manufacturers say it’s made from.

One German company (THCPharm) found the following chemicals in Spice: Canavalia maritima, Nymphaea caerulea, Scutellaria nana, Pedicularis densiflora, Leonotis leonurus, Zornia latifolia, Nelumbo nucifera, Leonurus sibiricus, Tocopherol and an analgesic called JWH-018 commonly used as a cannabis substitute.

Several of these chemicals are regulated but only when they are bought and sold as individual chemicals, not when combined as an “incense” or “Spice.”

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, HU-210 (another analgesic used as a cannabis substitute) was

discovered in Spice Gold products seized at the U.S. border in January 2009.

Over 100 pounds of Spice products were seized based on this finding.

HU-210 was also detected in three Spice products in the UK, as reported in June 2009.

Spice is currently legal in the United States.

However, HU-210 is deemed Schedule I in the USA.

Thus, not knowing if Spice contains HU-210 or JWH-018 it’s legality is debated.

Here’s the bottom line, if you’re interested in smoking Spice, the question I have to ask is this, “What are you trying to get away with?”

Experimentation is not an excuse for idiocy.

Don’t be stupid and try something you don’t know about. Just because some stoner didn’t die when he tried it doesn’t give you a reason to get into trouble.

Get smart before you allow yourself to become stupid.

There is no substitute for keeping your honor clean.

Flipping fudge and freaks dropping all around

DR. ROBERT FUNK
MATTHEW C. PERRY HIGH SCHOOL
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

“Keep your honor clean” is a well-known phrase to Marines, an ideal that all Marines should live up to.

Unfortunately, many do not keep their honor clean when they use profanity in public.

I have been on this air station for seven years, and the problem seems to get worse every year.

Whether it is standing in line in the Food Court, sitting in the Sakura Theater, working out at IronWorks Gym, sitting by the pool, walking along the sea wall and passing the outdoor areas near the barracks, being on the bus during an ITT trip, or shopping in the PX or commissary, my wife and I are subject to a constant barrage of the F word and other obscenities.

It doesn’t seem to matter to those using this language that they are in public and children and women hear it. And these are not isolated incidents — they happen every time we are around Marines.

I was a Marine for twenty years, and I know how Marines talk when they are around other Marines in the barracks or in the workplace.

In my dealings with Marines on an official basis anywhere on the air station, they are unfailingly polite and helpful.

But among themselves in public, they are oblivious to what they say and to who hears it.

Common sense and public decency should prevail when Marines speak among themselves in public venues, especially when small children and

civilians are nearby.

I am the Assistant Principal at the high school, and we take a very hard line on profanity in school.

If a student uses any profanity, especially in the classroom directed at a teacher, he will be suspended for rude and disrespectful behavior.

To our students’ credit, I rarely hear profanity in the school, in stark contrast to what I hear from Marines every time I am around them in public.

There is something seriously wrong when I hear so little from teen-agers in comparison to what I hear from Marines.

This type of behavior reflects a coarsening of our culture that is harmful to children, and while many blame popular culture and the entertainment media for this, we do not need to add the Marine Corps to the list of culprits who cannot set a good example for our children.

For the sake of the uniform you wear and what it represents, please think about what you say in public and how a string of profanities is perceived when it is heard.

I retired 15 years ago, and just this past summer my daughter married a Marine helicopter pilot.

I proudly wore my dress blues to walk her down the aisle, and I was the happiest man in the world that day to see a Marine in his dress blues waiting for her.

But every time I hear a Marine with a filthy mouth in public, whether he is in uniform or not, it hurts to see how little that Marine respects the Marine Corps and the uniform, and what they stand for.

Funk is a retired major of the Marine Corps.

Slated upcoming holiday Commissary hours

Nov. 22: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Nov. 23-25: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Nov. 26-27: **Closed**
Nov. 28: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 6: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.*
Dec. 20: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 21-23: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Dec. 24: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Dec. 25-26: **Closed**
Dec. 27: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 28 - 31: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Jan. 1: **Closed**
Jan. 2: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Normal operating hours will resume Jan. 3.
Hours will be run in the Iwakuni Approach for the remainder of the holiday season.
*The Dec. 6 early closure is pending approval

Find out what benefits are rated under GI Bills

EDUCATION FROM PAGE 1

e.g., some aviation engineering degrees require flight training and because the training is part of the degree the Post 9/11 GI Bill should cover those costs.

Ultimately the benefit user needs to contact Department of Veterans Affairs to verify coverage.

4 – Eligibility:

For both bills, an honorable discharge is required.

In addition, service members must have served three consecutive years and paid \$1,200 toward the Montgomery GI Bill to use it. Service members who served two consecutive years or more but less than three years are eligible for a percentage.

To receive 100 percent benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, service members must have served at least 36 cumulative months after Sept. 10, 2001 or served 30 continuous days on active duty and been discharged due to service-related disability.

Less time results in a reduced coverage percentage.

Service members can receive a percentage of benefits if they served an aggregate of 90 days after Sept. 10, 2001.

Exact percentages based on time served can be found near the very bottom of the following Web site: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Benefit_Comparison_Chart.htm.

5 – How the two bills pay once eligibility is determined:

The Montgomery GI Bill is paid as a monthly lump sum directly to the benefit user. Currently, for a full-time student the rate is \$1,368 per month for those who have served three or more years, but that amount can increase based on needs; e.g., a benefit user wants to take several certification tests exceeding the \$1,368 per month.

So long as the tests meet coverage eligibility, they will be paid for; however, this will affect the total remaining months of coverage. The limit is \$2,000 per test, but individuals may take as many tests as they wish.

A good way to think of the Montgomery GI Bill is this: right now, 36 months of GI Bill coverage is worth approximately \$49,248 (36 x \$1,368).

The value is only approximate because the lump sum amount is recalculated annually.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill pays tuition and fees directly to the school based on the pay tables at the following Web site: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Tuition_and_fees.htm.

For active duty personnel, the Post 9/11 GI Bill will pay 100 percent tuition while on active duty.

Also, the Post 9/11 GI Bill will pay monthly BAH at the rate of an E-5 with dependents, regardless of rank upon end of active service, based on the zip code of the actual institution where courses are being taken. To determine BAH, input the institution’s zip code at the following Web site: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem/bah.html>. Don’t forget to select E-5 for rank.

Students attending schools outside the U.S. that do not have a main campus within the U.S. receive \$1,333 for 2009.

If the school does have a main campus in the U.S., BAH is calculated by the zip code of the main campus located in the U.S.

Students must attend one credit hour over what the institution attended considers part-time to be eligible for BAH.

Active duty personnel are not eligible for

BAH.

Students taking only online courses are not eligible to receive BAH, but if they take one class at an actual institution they qualify for BAH.

Any kickers a service member received as an enlistment or retention incentive will be added onto the monthly BAH at the rate of up to \$950 per month for critical military occupational specialties, and up to \$350 per month for retention.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill will also pay a lump sum book stipend at the current rate of \$41.67, for those who are 100 percent eligible, per credit hour, up to 24 credit hours per year.

Active duty personnel are not eligible for the book stipend.

6 - Opting into the Post 9/11 GI Bill is permanent; individuals cannot go back to the Montgomery GI Bill, but they can go from the Montgomery GI Bill to the Post 9/11 GI Bill at anytime.

There are several points to consider here.

First, if Montgomery GI Bill benefits have been used, upon switching to the Post 9/11 GI Bill, benefits will be pro-rated month for month; e.g., if a person has used 6 months under the Montgomery GI Bill, upon switching to the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the person will have 30 months of coverage under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Second, if individuals completely exhaust their Montgomery GI Bill benefits, they will receive 12 more months under the post 9/11 GI Bill giving a total of 48 months of benefits.

Third, if a individuals already paid the \$1,200 into the Montgomery GI Bill and they switch to the Post 9/11 GI Bill, they will receive the \$1,200 with the last basic allowance for housing check once all Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits have been exhausted. If the Montgomery GI Bill has been used, the \$1,200 will be pro-rated based on how much of the Montgomery GI Bill benefit was used. For those who topped up their Montgomery GI Bill, only the initial pay-in of \$1,200 will be returned.

Fourth, the Montgomery GI Bill is good for 10 years from date of last discharge or separation while the Post 9/11 GI Bill is good for 15 years from date of last discharge or separation. If a service member is called back, the time completely resets upon the new discharge or separation date.

If the 10 years is almost up and benefits have not been used, opting into the Post 9/11 GI Bill will grant the additional five years.

7 – Benefit transfer to spouses or dependents can be done only under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and service members are required to have served at least six years and reenlisted for four more years.

Reenlistment requirements vary for service members close to service limitations and who have surpassed 10 years already.

Under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, a service member can only transfer benefits while on active duty; e.g., if a service member with a spouse and one child allocates benefits only to the spouse and leaves the military, the service member will not be able to transfer any benefits to the child later. But, if the service member allocates any percentage to the child and the rest to the spouse, the service member will be able to modify the percentages as desired later.

Spouses may begin using benefits immediately and all the stipulations applying to the service member in terms of use will apply to the spouse. Remember,

SEE **EDUCATION** ON PAGE 10



SGT. JOSH COX

Folk singer Jiro Mouri plays a song during the third annual Japanese and American Friendship Concert here Nov. 6. The concert featured performances by local musicians, as well as distinguished guest artists from around Japan.

Americans and Japanese join together for music

CONCERT FROM PAGE 1

smiles, photo opportunities and refreshments.

“Music crosses all barriers, whether someone is singing in Japanese or in English or Latin or even Italian,” Mills said shortly after the concert. “We all can understand what the music brings to us, so we put on this concert each year to help bring our two peoples together, and because it’s a lot of fun too.”

Four months of pool renovations complete

POOL FROM PAGE 1

instructor, junior lifeguard water safety aid and water safety instructor.

The pool is also available for private functions.

The indoor pool is open 5 a.m.–9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Sundays and holidays. The pool will be closed from 1–3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for maintenance.

For more information, contact the IronWorks Gym Aquatics Department at 253-4966.

got news?

Do you have an idea for a story or need coverage for

an event? We are here for you. Contact the Public Affairs office two weeks in advance by e-mail at iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216.



Marines lose control of their canoe and fall overboard during the Gladiators event at the IronWorks Gym pool here Nov. 6. The Gladiators event is the final competition of the Commander's Cup Challenge. During the Gladiators event, there was a total of nine competitions with four teams testing their strength, endurance and teamwork.

H&HS Ops conquers Commander's Cup competition

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The final event of the 2009 Commander's Cup Challenge took place at the IronWorks Gym pool and the Penny Lake fields here Nov. 6 with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Operations taking first place.

Gladiators was the final event of the nearly year-long Commander's Cup Challenge. It commenced at the newly renovated IronWorks Gym pool at 9 a.m. and continued well into the afternoon at the Penny Lake Fields.

The first challenge of the day was the Kayak Relay.

The Kayak Relay consisted of four holders and four paddlers.

The holders kept the kayak in place as the paddlers boarded; then the paddlers' race to the opposite end of the pool using only their bare hands and change over with the second part of the team and race back.

The events in the Gladiators challenge were designed to be competitive, fun and help build teamwork or camaraderie.

"If they are deployed somewhere and they are all together, they need to learn how to work as a team," said Barbara Roman, fitness coordinator for Marine Corps Community Services.

The Wacky Swim Relay was the second challenge. It required four team members, two at each end of the pool, to have a different swimming task to perform for 50 meters before the next could begin their task.

Following the Wacky Swim Relay was the River Raft Race, which was much like the Kayak Relay, then the Canoe Tug-O-War.

The Canoe Tug-O-War consisted of two teammates in one canoe against another pair

After the 10-legged race was the Bull Pull.

In the Bull Pull one team member from each team participated head to head with another team facing opposite directions while being tied together. Once a whistle

was blown to start the event, competitors pulled in opposite directions to a designated line on the field.

Next was the Human Sphere Barrel Race. It consisted of a two-man team in which one of the teammates is placed inside a metal ball and pushed through the designated course. Upon completion of the course the teammate in the ball gets out and sprints to a cone then to the finish line.

An obstacle course followed the Human Sphere Barrel Race. The final end all event was a massive Tug-O-War.

All 10 team members participated in this event. Participants began this final event in the push-up position with their feet at the rope. When given a whistle to start, they got up and pulled with every ounce of strength they had left until a winner was named.

The winner of the Gladiators event was H&HS Ops

with 68 points, followed by Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 with 64 points, and finally Combat Logistics Company 36 with 36 points.

"We deserve to win because we put in the work; we PT all the time, and it pays off in the end," said Jessica Garcia-Ayala a participant for H&HS Ops.

of teammates in a separate canoe tied together and paddling as fast and hard as they could to tug to a designated point.

After the Canoe Tug-O-War, teams were afforded a break before the event continued at Penny Lake.

Once at Penny Lake, the fifth challenge of the day was a 10-legged race.



Hugh McClenney paddles the final 50 meters of the Kayak Relay competition of the Gladiators event held at the IronWorks Gym pool here Nov. 6. McClenney was on Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Operations which took first place with 68 points.

Proclamation: November dedicated to Native American Heritage



Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace (left), U.S. Marine Corps, talks with Navajo Code Talkers after they presented him with a Navajo blanket in the Pentagon on Aug. 10, 2007. Code Talkers were Native American Marines who served in World War II and developed a communications code based on their native language.

BARACK OBAMA
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The indigenous peoples of North America — the First Americans — have woven rich and diverse threads into the tapestry of our Nation's heritage.

Throughout their long history on this great land, they have faced moments of profound triumph and tragedy alike. During National Native American Heritage Month, we recognize their many accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices, and we pay tribute to their participation in all aspects of American society.

This month, we celebrate the ancestry and time-honored traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives in North America. They have guided our land stewardship policies, added immeasurably to our cultural heritage, and demonstrated courage in the face of adversity. From the American Revolution to combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, they have fought valiantly in defense of our Nation as dedicated servicemen and women. Their native languages have also played a pivotal role on the battlefield.

During World Wars I and II, Native American code talkers developed unbreakable codes to communicate military messages that saved countless lives. Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars.

Our debt to our First Americans is immense, as is our responsibility to ensure their fair, equal treatment and honor the commitments we made to their forebears.

The Native American community today faces huge challenges that have been ignored by our Government for too long. To help address this disparity, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocates more than \$3 billion to help these communities deal with their most pressing needs.

In the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, my Administration has proposed over \$17 billion for programs carried out by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and other Federal agencies that have a critical role to play in improving the lives of Native Americans.

These programs will increase educational opportunities, address the scourge of alcohol abuse and domestic violence, promote economic development, and provide access to comprehensive, accessible, and affordable health care.

While funding increases do not make up for past deficiencies, they do reflect our determination to honor tribal sovereignty and ensure continued progress on reservations across America.

As we seek to build on and strengthen our nation-to-nation relationship, my Administration is committed to ensuring tribal communities have a meaningful voice in our national policy debates as we confront the challenges facing all Americans. We will continue this constructive dialogue at the White House Tribal Nations Conference held in Washington, D.C., this month.

Native American voices have echoed through the mountains, valleys, and plains of our country for thousands of years, and it is now our time to listen.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of

the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as National Native American Heritage Month.

I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 27, 2009, as Native American Heritage Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA



SGT. RICARDO GOMEZ

Col. Steven Nitzschke, the Marine Aircraft Group 12 commanding officer, leads Marines from MAG-12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 533 and VMFA(AW)-242 in a motivational run that kicked off the field meet held at Penny Lake here Nov. 6. The field meet was held in celebration of the Marine Corps birthday.



SGT. RICARDO GOMEZ

Participants prepare to carry their fellow Marine during the stretcher race portion of the field meet at Penny Lake here Nov. 6. After arriving at Penny Lake, Marines kicked off the day's events with own-the-bone, dizzy-izzy, team push-ups, casualty drag and stretcher races.



SGT. RICARDO GOMEZ

Marines from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All-Weather) 533 compete in the final leg of the tug-of-war competition during the MAG-12 field meet at Penny Lake here Nov. 6.

Marines compete in celebration of Marine Corps' 234th birthday

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12 competed against each other in a field meet in celebration of the Marine Corps birthday at Penny Lake here Nov. 6.

Teams from MAG-12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 533 and VMFA(AW)-242 participated in a total of nine events throughout the morning.

Marines started off the field meet with a motivational run around the base early that morning.

"Today isn't meant to be forced fun," said Col. Steven Nitzschke, the MAG-12 commanding officer. "It's supposed to be fun."

After arriving at Penny Lake, Marines kicked off the day's events with own-the-bone, dizzy-izzy, team

push-ups, casualty drag and stretcher races.

During the last half of the morning, participants competed in earth ball, soccer, ultimate frisbee and tug-of-war.

Members of MALS-12 were feeling pretty confident during earth ball, and their confidence proved true after they beat MAG-12 and won the earth ball portion of the field meet.

As Marines waited for other events to finish, they gathered around and had a few friendly bouts of grappling.

As ultimate frisbee finally came to an end, and Marines prepared for the final competition of tug-of-war, MALS-12 led the competition by one point ahead of VMFA-533.

"We have to win (tug-of-war) to win the competition," said Cpl. Gregory Banks, an aviation jet mechanic with VMFA-533.

"Pull, pull, pull," screamed VMFA-

533 as their executive officer Maj. Leo J. Cannon crawled through the grass as his team's anchor while they struggled to beat MAG-12.

Just when they thought they were done, VMFA-533 had to go one more time to either tie with MALS-12 or to take home first place.

533 pushed just enough to win the final event and win the competition.

The exhausted Marines gathered around into a school circle for the announcement of the official winner.

It was no surprise when 533 was given the trophy after keeping the lead through nearly the entire competition.

Nitzschke reminded everyone that the reason they were all out there was to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday.

"I love each and every one of you, even the Navy," he joked. "Happy birthday again, Marines."



SGT. RICARDO GOMEZ

A Marine and sailor duel off during the own-the-bone portion of the MAG-12 field meet at Penny Lake here Nov. 6. During the last half of the morning, participants competed in earth ball, soccer, ultimate frisbee and tug-of-war.



SGT. RICARDO GOMEZ

Marines from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 533 steal away the ball during the earth ball portion of the MAG-12 field meet at Penny Lake here Nov. 6. During the final portion of the field meet, the tug-of-war competition, VMFA(AW)-533 managed to pull just enough to win the competition, which gave them the lead in the field meet.

CORPS NEWS

Marines save lives, assist Afghan National Army

STAFF SGT. LUIS R. AGOSTINI
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 7

FARAH PROVINCE, Afghanistan — As Seaman Jared D. Wilson, a corpsman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, stepped into his humvee on the morning of Nov. 2, he knew he very well could find himself in the position of saving lives. He didn't expect it to be Afghan lives.

On the evening of Nov. 1, the Marines of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment were tasked with the security of a re-supply convoy the following morning for the Afghan National Army.

The Marines have been down this road before. Part of the route the Marines have taken from their forward operating base to their final destination has been identified as a Taliban hotspot.

"The last time we went down that route, we found three, 100-pound IEDs. It was kind of nerve-racking," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua J. Azarte, also a corpsman with Co. I, 3/4.

"That's a bad place. We're finding IEDs all of the time over there, and last time, we took indirect fire that came really close to our trucks," said 2nd Lt. Robert R. Fafinski III, the commander of 1st Platoon, Co. I, 3/4.

After a two-hour delay waiting on the Afghan National Army right outside of the FOB, the convoy made its way to the Afghan Uniformed Police checkpoint, with Ford pick-up trucks of Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army soldiers integrated.

The Marines have learned to exercise patience and develop their mentoring skills with the Afghan forces. From departure times to picking up trash, the Marines are trying to lead by example when it comes to military discipline.

"We're going to continue working with them. It looks like their heads are in the right place, they just need more mentoring," said Lance Cpl. Jacob Fournier, a section leader with Co. I, 3/4.

Although labeled as a security mission, the Marines were looking to "get some."

Because of the previous attacks on the Marines in the same location, the Marines were hoping to draw fire from any enemy forces in the area and do what Marine "grunts" are known for: seek, close with and destroy the enemy.

About an hour into the convoy, a domino effect of red brake lights brought the convoy to a complete

stop. An Afghan truck driver waved down the lead vehicle of the convoy, and through a Pashtu translator embedded with 1st platoon, informed the Marines of a nearby car accident.

The Marines didn't take any chances, keeping a strong sense of vigilance while investigating the scene.

"Myself and a bunch of the Marines approached the scene thinking it was an ambush. Within 30 seconds, we switched gears from expecting enemy contact to a lifesaving mission," said Fafinski.

Wilson approached the scene, and immediately noticed signs of a potentially fatal car accident. A rear bumper, glass, windshield and a shoe was strewn throughout the road.

As the Marines and Afghan forces made their way off of the right side of the road, they immediately knew the accident was no ambush.

An Afghan family of nine fell victim to an off-road accident. The injured Afghans lay near a totaled, white, hatchback vehicle. Two Afghans were pronounced dead on the scene.

Although ruled a car accident, Fafinski believes the family may have been swerving, trying to avoid a possible IED. He believes this for good reason.

About two weeks ago, an Afghan family struck a Taliban-emplaced roadside bomb, killing one and wounding several others.

"They're hitting their own people. Not only does it disgust me, it makes me want to get them a lot more," Fafinski said.

Wilson and Azarte immediately went to work, prioritizing their new patients for triage.

The "docs," as the Marines refer to them, have completed extensive training and participated in numerous field exercises, including Mojave Viper. Mojave Viper is a 40-day field exercise at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., required for all Marine infantry battalions deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan. Part of the training includes mass casualty exercises, which Marines and corpsmen learn to work as a team to treat a multitude of simulated casualties.

But this time, it was for real. Three of the injured passengers looked to just suffer cuts, bruises and shock. As they were identified, the corpsmen moved on to the more serious injuries.

The Afghan family was driving from Lashkar Gah to Afghanistan's Nimroz province, to treat the grandmother for hypertension. She was now being treated for a severe foot injury, which at first glance, may have

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



STAFF SGT. LUIS R. AGOSTINI
Marines, corpsmen and Afghan forces tend to injured Afghans hurt in a car accident Nov. 2. The Marines, from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, were providing security for an Afghan National Army re-supply convoy when they were waved down by an Afghan truck driver, who informed them of a nearby accident. An Afghan family of nine was involved, two of which were pronounced dead on the scene. Marines, Navy corpsmen and Afghan forces provided security and treatment for the injured Afghans.

required amputation.

The Marines, corpsmen and Afghan forces began working together in a concerted effort. The platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Paul V. Cooke, began coordinating a casualty evacuation for the injured Afghans requiring urgent care, while the rest of the Marines cordoned off the area.

The Afghan soldiers offered what help they could, from communicating with the family members able to speak, to providing security on the main road. The corpsmen tended to the wounded, which included the grandmother, two boys and a young girl.

While dealing with the wounded, the corpsmen kept the Afghan and Islamic code of conduct in mind.

"I asked the interpreter to ask permission from the son to treat the injured women," said Wilson, a 21-year-old from San Dimas, Calif.

"The son didn't hesitate to allow us to treat them."

Within 30 minutes, two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters landed within the vicinity of where Sgt. Randolph J. Chatfield, a section leader with 1st platoon, popped yellow smoke.

The coalition of Marines, sailors and Afghans again worked in unison, loading the patients onto stretchers and transporting them from the accident site to the helicopters.

"They responded very well," said Azarte, a 21-year-old from Tucson, Ariz.

"If we didn't have the interpreter and the ANA, it would've been a lot harder to treat those people," Wilson said.

"They showed genuine care. They were willing to do what they could, but comfortable enough to know that we had it in control," said Cooke, a 31-year-old from Grant's Pass, Ore.

The injured were taken to FOB Delaram, where they received treatment from the Army's 67th Forward Surgical Team. From

there, they were flown to an Afghan hospital in Kandahar, where they will receive CAT-scans for head trauma and any possible neck and spinal injuries.

As the helicopters departed with the Afghans, the Marines and Afghan forces pushed forward to complete their original mission, but not before being delayed again by several hours, due to a possible roadside bomb.

"I'd rather spend six hours finding out it's not an IED, than .3 seconds finding out that it is," Cooke said.

The Marines completed the re-supply under the cover of darkness and with the use of night-vision goggles. After returning to the FOB, the Marines cleared their weapons, cleaned out the vehicles, and waited for the platoon leadership to give their intelligence debrief, which included praise heaped on the corpsmen.

"The corpsmen handled themselves well and took care of it pretty good," said Chatfield, a 23-year-old from Kona, Hawaii.

"It's Doc Wilson's first deployment, but it looked like it was his fifth. That was his show," said Fournier, a 21-year-old from Lanesboro, Minn.

"The corpsmen kept their cool really well. They had tactical patience, and dealt with a lot more than expected," said Cooke.

"If this was a football game and we were giving out a game ball, I'd give it to the corpsmen and the platoon sergeant," said Fafinski, a 24-year-old from Chaska, Minn. Fafinski mentioned Cooke due to his performance in coordinating the casualty evacuation.

"After it happened and we got back in the trucks, I had a deep feeling of confidence in our corpsmen. One of my lance corporals, Lance Cpl. Joel Fadden, looked at me and said, 'it's sure nice to know that the corpsmen know what they are doing.' If he thinks like that, I'm sure all of the Marines are thinking it too."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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.

Dental Assisting Training Program

The American Red Cross is offering a Dental Assisting Training Program. To receive your certificate you will receive 40 hours of a didactic course and 500 hours of supervised clinical experience and chair side instruction.

The program must also be completed within six months of the start day. For more information or requirements, call 253-4525 or email iwakuni@usa.redcross.org

Fertility Treatment Options Seminar

Trouble conceiving? Dr. Atsushi Tanaka, M.D., a fertility treatment specialist, is scheduled to hold a seminar on infertility treatment options 5 p.m. Thursday at the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic lobby. All base personnel interested are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Lt. Sarah Gentry at 253-3485.

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.

Teen Sports Day & BBQ

Club Beyond will be hosting a sports day Saturday at Penny Lake. The fun starts at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow. There will be a rock climbing wall, sumo wrestling, earth ball, barbeque and

more! Free and open to all teens in grades 7-12. Parents, drop by and say hi. Sponsored by Club Beyond and the station chapel. For more information, call the chaplain's office at 253-3371 or John at 080-4177-2060.

The Day of International Cooperation and Exchange

Come out and experience other cultures at this annual. The event will take place at the International Conference Center on Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Come out and enjoy the international bazaar and variety of workshops designed to bring together Japanese and foreign citizens. For more information, visit <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/ircd/info/kyorokunohi-eibun1.pdf>.


NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy-

Marine Corps Relief Society is now providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information or to apply, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by their office located in the station chapel, room 148.

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.

“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, November 13, 2009 7 p.m. Love Happens (PG-13) <i>Premier</i> 10 p.m. Jennifer's Body (R) <i>Premier</i>	4 p.m. Love Happens (PG-13) 7 p.m. White Out (R)
Saturday, November 14, 2009 1 p.m. Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 4 p.m. I Can Do Bad All By Myself (PG-13) 7 p.m. All About Steve (PG-13) <i>Premier</i> 10 p.m. The Informant (R)	Monday, November 16, 2009 7 p.m. Base CO Safety Stand Down
Sunday, November 15, 2009 1 p.m. Bedtime Stories (PG) <i>Free Admission</i>	Tuesday, November 17, 2009 7 p.m. Inglorious Bastards (R) <i>Last Showing</i>
	Wednesday, November 18, 2009 7 p.m. Love Happens (PG-13)
	Thursday, November 19, 2009 7 p.m. Gamer (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura often for updates, or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.

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.

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 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Tues. – Fri. 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
	Contact the youth director at 080-4177-2060 or jletaw@clubbeyond.org for more information.
	<i>For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.</i>

CLASSIFIEDS

Miscellaneous

Need Computer Assistance

Someone needed to replace motherboard on new Dell laptop. Has already been diagnosed after leaving out in the rain. Please call with estimate. For more information, call 080-4073-3138.

Kitty Care

Will watch your kitten or cat and give them a loving home with a responsible adult while you are out of town. \$50 per week. We have children who are extremely gentle with animals, and would give your kitty plenty of playtime! For more information, call 080-4073-3138.

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

Sofa

Large sofa with two matching chairs, great condition, with rose wood legs. \$100 OBO. For more information, call 253-3496.

Microwave

Like new. \$50. For more information, call 253-3496.

Dog Bed

Olive green and off-white dog bed, like new. Built for 20-40 lb. dog. Asking \$12. For more information, call 253-3469.

Bikes

Two mountain bikes, good condition. \$50. For more information, call 253-3496.

Items for Children

Imaginenext (Fisher Price)- complete Rescue Set with Paramedic Station, and all pieces. Barely used- still have box This is for ages 4+; it's the type that is assembled each time. Purchased on EBay, but too many pieces for my boys who are under the recommended age. great set- excellent deal! Asking-\$25 Two Mr. Potato Head Sets-all pieces, barely used. \$10 for both.

Abeka Felt Tree Combination Concepts- (Grade K4), like new (never used) 50 piece set is useful in developing number concepts and combinations. Asking \$10.00.

Abeka Learning Games (poster size), New Ten brilliantly colored games that appeal to young children as they practice the concepts introduced in phonics or numbers lessons. Students enjoy manipulating the animals and other items that match each game board. An instruction booklet is included. The 10 games may be adapted for use with any subject matter. (description taken from Abeka catalog). Completely new; I accidentally ordered the poster size, instead of personal size! Beautiful

learning tool. Price upon request. Curious George DVD-Only watched once. \$5. For more information, call 080-4073-3138.

Automobiles

1998 Toyota Corsa

Runs great and is in excellent condition. JCI til March 31, 2011. 82,790 KM, new tires, automatic, AC, CD player, everything works. Asking 2,500 OBO. For more information, call 080 4262 8077.

1995 Mitsubishi RVR

Must Sell. JCI good until April 2010, automatic, A/C & heat, power windows, CD player. Available ASAP. \$1400/OBO. For more information, call 253-2067.

Honda GB250

250cc engine, JCI good until 2011, new tires, recent oil change, SuperTrap exhaust, license plate "Pedestrian Slicer", available on Nov 07. \$1,200. For more information, call 080-3524-3462.

Wanted: Van

Eight passenger, reasonable price, must have JCI. For more information, call 253-4526 or 253-2059.

Jobs

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is looking for Client Services Assistants volunteers to greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

Rainbow Home Day Care

Have openings for full-time, part-time, and hourly children from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays -Fridays. Have 13 years of experience working with children, First-Aid and CPR certified, and have a degree in early childhood education. For more information, call 253-2246.

Post 9/11 vs. Montgomery GI Bill

EDUCATION FROM PAGE 3

while on active duty, service members, and by extension their spouses, do not rate the BAH or the book stipend given under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

For children, the 15-year time limit to use benefits does not apply, but the service member must have completed 10 years of service before children may use benefits.

Once children reach 26 years of age they are no longer eligible for benefits.

While children are using the benefits, they will receive BAH and the book stipend.

8 - Students who drop out will have to return a pro-rated percentage of received funds to the Department of Veterans Affairs. People choosing to take time off or dropping out should immediately contact the Department of Veterans Affairs to explain the

situation and find out what they will have to pay back.

9 - Once benefits are applied for, the final step before payment will be processed is to find the Veterans Affairs certifying officer at the institution. This last step is the only way to get paid.

The bottom line: this article should only serve as a guide.

For most, the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the best option, but there are circumstances where the Montgomery GI Bill can be better.

There are two clear situations where the Montgomery GI Bill will be more beneficial.

First, if not pursuing a degree, the Montgomery GI Bill is the only option.

Second, some states waive tuition for residents attending state schools. If this is the case, or individuals find a way to fund their tuition through alternate means such as

scholarships, the monthly lump sum from the Montgomery GI Bill will almost always be more than the BAH and yearly book stipend; however, check the BAH rate and factor in the stipend to be sure.

As a final note for active duty, unless there are serious financial issues or a spouse wants to attend an expensive school, saving GI Bill benefits and using tuition assistance is probably a better idea.

For more information about the Montgomery GI Bill or Post 9/11 GI Bill, visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> or contact the station's Veterans Affairs representative Tiffany Gemas at 253-6439 to set up an appointment or e-mail her at VATgemas@aol.com.

Editor's note: All information contained in this article was evaluated for accuracy by Tiffany Gemas, the station's Veterans Affairs representative.

S.K.y. ballers wow crowd, use basketball to set positive example for Iwakuni youth

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Young and old alike "oohed" and "ahed" as the Serving Knowledge to Youth StreetBall Syndicate basketball team put on an impressive demonstration of basketball prowess in the Matthew C. Perry gymnasium here Saturday.

One of the major highlights was seeing Dennis "Spyda" Chism dunk the ball and turn upside down while clinging to the rim, clearly demonstrating his namesake.

"I thought it was really good," Tchaikawsky E. Samuels said, mentioning Chism's dunk specifically. "I'm really happy I came."

S.K.y. played a team composed of station residents, and even though the team representing the station was outclassed, the point wasn't to embarrass anyone.

"A lot of these guys are original members of And1 on ESPN, and when And1 became a little too commercialized and it got away from the market that they (wanted) to approach, which are kids, they wanted to come back to their roots," William Younce, S.K.y.'s tour manager, said.

The players on the S.K.y. team don't just talk the talk, and if their departure from And1 due to its commercialization doesn't speak volumes, hearing one of S.K.y.'s guards Chris "Rain Man" Crumpler describe his

motivations can be moving.

"We have to make sure that we tell the kids the right messages because sometimes through entertainment and sports we let athletes compromise what's important," said Crumpler. "So with S.K.y., Serving Knowledge to Youth, the knowledge that we're serving is all about a positive base, all about education and respecting your parents and following the rules."

"We try and get a lot of guys that are on the team with college degrees giving back to the communities and showing the kids that we don't just talk about it, but we do it," he added.

To show their good sportsmanship, and perhaps to truly highlight their talent, at half-time the S.K.y. basketball team made the score

even and gave the home team of station residents a 10-point lead.

Despite their gesture of goodwill, the S.K.y. team was still able to retake the lead with an impressive demonstration of basketball acrobatics.

In defense of the Iwakuni team, they came together at literally last-minute and had no strategy going into the game said Jason Scott, the Iwakuni team's coach.

After all, the S.K.y. team couldn't play itself.

"I think everybody enjoyed themselves," said Scott. "The crowd seemed to enjoy themselves, so that was the most important thing; that the families and everybody else in the stands were having a good time."

The S.K.y. team's approach may seem harsh to the poor Washington Generalesque team, the long-time whipping boys of the Harlem



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

A member of the team representing Iwakuni leaps for the goal with a Serving Knowledge to Youth StreetBall Syndicate player preparing to shutdown the attempt during an exhibition game at the Matthew C. Perry gymnasium here Saturday. Although the Iwakuni team tried valiantly, their efforts were no match for the well-oiled S.K.y. team and its seasoned players.

Globetrotters, they face at the locations they go to, but the game only serves to garner the attention of the youth while still managing to impress the old.

"The game is the delivery mechanism, but the message is stay off the streets, get an education and serving knowledge to the kids so they can grow up to be responsible, successful adults," said Younce.

"The game of ball can be played anywhere," added Younce.

"Basketball is a universal sport, and all these guys have played basketball and they can relate to the kids, and it's all about education; it's a natural tie-in because all these guys have

played college ball."

After the game the players made themselves available for nearly an hour to give autographs and be in photographs with the electric crowd.

"The fans brought it out of us," said Crumpler. "They had a great crowd here today. We feed off the crowd's energy."

Iwakuni was just one of 14 stops for the S.K.y. StreetBall Syndicate basketball team's tour.

To view player profiles, see them in action or just for more information about the S.K.y. basketball team, check out their Web site at <http://www.skynolimit.net/>.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Serving Knowledge to Youth StreetBall Syndicate power forward James "Big Swoll" Rhodes signs autographs for all-comers after an exhibition game against a team of station residents at the Matthew C. Perry gymnasium here Saturday. The S.K.y. team promotes staying off the streets and getting an education to youth by using the wide accessibility of basketball to captivate audiences.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Five-O quarterback and coach James Allen leaves an IYAOYAS defensive player in the dust as he scrambles for a first down in the 8th annual Turkey Bowl flag football tournament held at the Northside football field here Saturday. IYAOYAS is the only team to beat Five-O this season, but Five-O still remains the top team in regular season as well as the pre-season and Turkey Bowl champions.

IYAOYAS blown out 32-13; Five-O remains champs

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines aboard the station took part in the 8th annual Turkey Bowl flag football tournament at the Northside football field here Saturday.

Once again it was Five-O who came out on top with the championship trophies after a comeback finish against IYAOYAS 32-13.

A total of six teams showed up to participate in this year's Turkey Bowl.

Sasebo usually comes down every year, but was unable to show up this year to defend last year's championship.

"Five-O took the pre-season tournament, and right now they are looking pretty good to win the Turkey Bowl," said Andrew Porche, sports coordinator for Marine Corps Community Services, just before the semi finals.

Five-O entered the tournament as the top seed and the team to beat, as it is 6-1 in the regular season and on top of the standings.

"They won the pre-season tournament, so we expected them to play well," said Christopher Rios, coach for IYAOYAS. "I think that during the season they underestimated us, which led to our victory."

Five-O's only loss during regular season was to IYAOYAS, who just happened to fight its way from the loser's bracket into



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Five-O defensive back Dustin "Rubyslippers" Ruiz chases down IYAOYAS quarterback Robert Figueroa for one of his many sacks during the 8th annual Turkey Bowl flag football tournament held at the Northside football field here Saturday. Five-O won the tournament defeating the IYAOYAS 32-13.

what could have been the championship game.

With Five-O undefeated going into the "championship" game, IYAOYAS had to beat them twice in order to take the title.

In an improbable finish, IYAOYAS pulled off a last-minute touchdown to tie the game and send it into overtime.

In overtime each team was allowed one possession of four downs from the 20-yard line to score a touchdown and choose a one-, two- or three-point conver-

sion for the extra point.

Five-O scored on its first play and was unable to convert an extra point attempt.

IYAOYAS, however, scored in two plays and did manage to put one in the end zone for the extra point and the win, as well as forcing another game.

"We had a chance to win the first game, but mental mistakes and missed extra points caused us to lose," said James Allen, quarterback for Five-O.

With everything on the line and

no room for any mistakes, it was up to Allen and his team to prove once again they are the team to beat.

Five-O came off the bench and onto the gridiron with much more intensity than in the first game by putting six on the board, but once again unable to convert any extra points.

IYAOYAS answered right back, scoring 13 unanswered points, taking the lead and controlling the half going into halftime.

The second half of the game was an all Five-O game with the players scoring 26 unanswered points of its own to take the lead and the win.

"It was a good game, and both teams left everything on the field, and that is all you can ask for," said Allen. "I give the IYAOYAS credit for coming back and giving us one hell of a game."

Although IYAOYAS lost the tournament championship, there is still plenty of regular season left to play, and anyone who follows knows there is a good chance these two teams may meet up again.

"Well, I think that fatigue took its toll on our team, having played 5 games (the most in the tournament), the last 3 of which were one after the other with no break," said Rios. "I think that we should have won because we were the best, but in the end the team with the 1st place trophy deserves it."