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THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 47, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

A group of children dogpile at the Tree Lighting Ceremony here Dec. 4. The event featured live music and free holiday treats provided by Marine Corps Community Services. The Tree Lighting Ceremony is an annual event at Marine Corps Station Iwakuni. The Christmas tree and the surrounding area featured thousands of lights.

DECK^{the} HALLS

*Holiday season kicks off at tree lighting ceremony*COMPILED BY
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

The Holiday Season officially kicked off at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, with the annual tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 4.

For more than 10 years, Marine Corps Community Services has sponsored the event that has grown in attendance year by year.

More than 600 people attended this year's event.

Free hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies were provided free of charge by MCCS.

Col. Michael O'Halloran, station commanding officer, gave a holiday message. O'Halloran had the honor of flipping the switch to the more than five thousand lights that covered the Cherry Blossom Triangle.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to enjoy multiple live performances from Beyond and children from Matthew C. Perry Elementary School.

Punishment for spice gets high

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

On Nov. 20, the Japanese government officially made the drug known as spice illegal to buy and sell in Japan.

For those unfamiliar, spice is a form of synthetic cannabis that has gained popularity in recent years. Spice is comprised of a variety of plant products laced with cannabimimetics materials. Those materials interact with the cannabinoid receptors in the human brain to produce similar effects of cannabis.

Carlos Campos, a Special Agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service here, has


inadvertently become the in-house expert on spice.

"I think we have seen an increase in the usage of spice in the military, because it is a common belief that it cannot be tested," said Campos.

Up until now, spice has been seen as a European phenomenon. Although it has previously been sold in Japan and the United States, it has seemingly remained unpopular. It can be inferred that spice products have become increasingly popular with service members due to the fact that spice's properties cannot be detected through urinalysis.

"People think you can't test for

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘The Greatest Generation’

CHAPLAIN D. ANTHONY BAKER
MWSS-171 CHAPLAIN

My grandfather died in 1996. Thankfully, he was able to retell his experiences of World War II to me before he passed on. I was 9 years old when he last talked about what he saw, what he felt, and what he heard during the war.

Through his description of trial and struggle I was able to comprehend and understand that what I was listening to was no less than legendary, even though my mind was young and immature. The fear he felt as he fired his rifle for the first time in battle. The hopelessness he felt as he sat in a barbed-wire box with other hopeless souls after being captured by the enemy. The extreme fatigue he experienced while on the Bataan Death March. In spite of all that happened to him, he would declare, "I am proud to have served my country." I am sure you have experienced similar sentiments from World War II vets you have encountered.

In one sentence, that statement captures a set of values that defined an entire generation. The men and women of that era are commonly referred to as the "Greatest Generation." Why?

Because the "Greatest Generation" demonstrated self-sacrifice, unselfishness, commitment, and patriotism in a time when the cost of doing so was high, and when the easy road would have led to a much lower death toll. Unfortunately, the legacy they left for us is slowly disappearing with the people that best exemplified it.

I compare our generation with the Greatest Generation and I believe that we have strayed, and we continue to stray, further and further from their set of values and moral standards. In fact, I think we are starting to look more like the European countries every year and will be where they are within a decade and a half, if not sooner.

Our generation has seen the decay of the home and family, and has redefined what "life" is and what it means to "be alive." An unofficial survey taken of the new Marines and Sailors that check into my unit from MOS school reveal that 65 percent or higher come from broken homes. Even in light of this discovery, I am still astonished at how many young couples (mainly E-5s and below) want to get divorced after only a few years of marriage.

I predict the damage will be, and is, incalculable, as every

thread of our society will feel the ramifications. We very well could see a higher number of abortions, violent crime, sexual dysfunctions, and an increase in hard-core drug use in the coming years.

Why? It is because the standard by which children base their set of values that will dictate how they will live their life is not there. In the vacuum created by the absence of just one parent, the world through MTV, iTunes, PS3, and MySpace will speak its values into that hole.

Perhaps just as tragic is the loss in the value of life we have seen in our generation. To prove the point, a quick look at the U.S. statistics on suicide and abortions are alarming. In recent decades, our court system has defined what it means to "be alive." Yet the last time I checked, the process of conceiving and birthing a child has not changed once since the beginning of time, just the definition given to us.

When I think of the Greatest Generation, I think of how committed they were. Committed to a cause greater than themselves. Committed to their families. Committed to American values. Committed to making the world a better place.

Anything that is worth anything in life involves commitment. I fear that we are on the brink of being a country without conviction and without commitment.

OPSEC Forwarding e-mails runs major risk

GUNNERY SGT. JOSE PALOSCHAVRZ
STATION OPERATIONS
SECURITY OFFICER

According to the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS), in the early days of the Vietnam War, the U.S. lost an alarming number of pilots and aircraft. To reverse that trend, a team was assigned to analyze U.S. military operations. The team, "Purple Dragon," discovered that crucial planning was being disclosed through routine patterns of behavior. Countermeasures were quickly initiated.

Purple Dragon's analytic process, called operations security or OPSEC, was used by the military for the next 20 years. It wasn't until 1988 that President Reagan formalized its use throughout the government and created the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS) to provide training and guidance to the national security community.

Operations Security is applicable to a myriad of processes and departments at MCAS Iwakuni. One area applicable to OPSEC is forwarding of chain e-mail. On Nov. 27, the commandant of the Marine Corps released MARADMIN 0686/09 to re-enforce the e-mail usage policy. According to the MARADMIN, forwarding chain e-mail is a concern across the Marine Corps Enterprise Network.

Additionally, forwarding chain e-mail distracts from work, degrades network performance by

transmitting non-productive messages, is considered to be a denial of service threat to various MCEN segments, and causes unnecessary costs. Chain e-mails prohibit good conduct that is prejudicial to the good order and discipline of Department of Defense.

Chain e-mails may also threaten national security of the U.S. and our allies and can bring discredit upon the armed forces.

All service members are reminded that forwarding chain e-mails is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Additionally, infractions of current chain e-mail policy may result in administrative action, to include non-judicial punishment or courts-martial. This policy is also applicable to all personnel accessing a U.S. government information system that is provided for USG-authorized use only.

The information assurance manager, personnel security manager and OPSEC officer are mandated to enter infractions into the Joint Personnel Adjudication System — this may ultimately result in loss of your security clearance eligibility.

Bottom line is creating or forwarding chain e-mail continues to be prohibited. Personnel are reminded to disregard any chain e-mail message supposed promotions or hoaxes; do not forward them; and notify the chain of command.

Let's do our part in keeping with the air station commanding officer's policy of remaining vigilant!

United Through Reading: Connecting parents, children while deployed

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

During the Vietnam War, Betty J. Mohlenbrock, founder of the United Through Reading Program, experienced the stress many military spouses with young children are faced with when their other half receives orders overseas.

One of her worries was that her young daughter would become distant from her father during his deployment and not remember him.

Mohlenbrock's fears were confirmed when her husband returned home and their 2-year-old daughter did not recognize him.

Realizing many military couples around the world suffer the same stresses of family separation as she did, Mohlenbrock founded the United Through Reading Program in 1989.

With sites all around the world, more than half a million people have benefited from the program, easing the stress of family separation for military members.

The station library here supports United Through Reading by providing the necessary tools service members need to participate in the program free of charge.

"(United Through Reading) allows the parent to stay in contact with the child," said Belinda Pugh, station librarian. "One of the best ways to do that, and I hope that every parent does it, is to read to their children at night — set up that comforting ritual of always having a bedtime story."

The program involves the parent or grandparent of a child to sit in front of a video camera as it records them reading a story.

The recording is then transferred to DVD, and the child can watch the recording whenever he or she likes.

"It really is the best gift that you can give to your child," said Pugh. "We're here in the holiday season, and a lot of parents are running around trying to figure out, 'How much money do I have to spend on the newest video game or Guitar Hero?', but really, the best gift that they can give to their children is absolutely free. It just takes a little bit of time."

Pugh said reading to a child usually takes about five to 10 minutes, which may not seem like a lot, but to a child, it's a long time.

"It's five minutes of uninterrupted time with the parent, and that makes them feel very secure," said Pugh.

Some parents around the station have already participated in the program and found it to be a great way to connect with their children.

Chananuch Reed, mother to a 4-year-old boy, said both she and her husband have participated in the program when they've had to be away from their son.

"I did this for my son, because when I was working in the library as a part-time job, sometimes I had to stay up until the library closed at 10 o'clock," said Reed. "So I did the DVD so the baby sitter could play the DVD of me reading a story to my son before he went to bed."

Reed's husband also participated in the program when he was separated from his family while moving here.

"I wanted my son to know daddy is still with us even though he wasn't there," said Reed. "I asked my husband to do the same thing, and once he did, he read an ABC book for my son, and my husband sent it to us. I played it for my son even though he didn't understand anything at all. He was only 6 months old, but when he saw it, I would say, 'This is daddy reading you a story' just to let him know that daddy was with him and daddy will always love him no matter where he was."

Anyone wanting to make a DVD for their children can contact the station library at 253-3078.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
A storefront window displaying spice before Nov. 20's law passed, making the purchase and selling of spice illegal. The maximum punishment for selling or purchasing spice in Japan is five years in prison and/or a fine of 5,000,000 yen.

Japanese government passes law, controlling spice

SPICE FROM PAGE 1

spice, but that will change — they just aren't right now because it is so new, but don't worry, they will," said Campos.

Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5355.1, dated Sept. 10, 2008 states, "A disturbing trend of substance abuse has surfaced throughout Japan causing this command to prohibit the possession, sale, use, or distribution of certain legally obtainable substances. The specific abuse at issue involves substances not currently controlled by the United States or Japanese governments."

Fast forward over a year and the latter is no longer true. Japan currently controls issues concerning spice, making the legal ramification for Marines smoking spice worse than before.

The Marine Corps maximum punishment for a service member smoking cannabis is dishonorable discharge and/or two years confinement. If caught selling or buying

spice by the Japanese government, the punishment includes a maximum punishment of five years imprisonment and/or a fine of 5,000,000 yen.

If the punishments are not a deterrent, maybe the purchase prices will be.

"Spice ranges from 7,800 yen to 8,900 yen; it's only half a gram," said Campos. "It's going to cost you about 90 bucks to fill three bowls."

Before a bowl is even packed, a service member can be punished.

"You can be charged for conspiracy," said Campos. "Telling someone to buy it, purchasing it together, giving someone money, and/or purchasing paraphernalia together can be conspiracy; even knowing someone is smoking spice and not reporting it can result in violations of the UCMJ."

Those with questions or concerns can contact NCIS for further assistance. To place an anonymous tip, call 253-3318 or e-mail fightercrime@ncis.navy.mil.

Legal herbal drugs pose threat to health, career

LT. CMDR. GREGORY JONES
U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL
YOKOSUKA

Drugs claiming to be "all natural" continue to appear on the market, tempting consumers with promises of safe and legal use. Unfortunately, the definition of all natural is not well-established and the harmful substances and drugs truly contain are not always known.

In Japan, one drug in particular that is causing concern among the military is "spice."

"Spice" was an over-the-counter drug that was legal in Japan and was sold as an herbal smoking blend of

medicinal herbs as a legal substitute for marijuana; however, an analysis by pharmaceutical companies in Europe found no such plant-like substances in the drug. Instead, the study identified synthetic marijuana-like substances. These synthetic compounds have the effect of lowering inhibitions, resulting in impaired judgment and loss of control. These effects can be especially harmful in situations where you may be vulnerable such as driving a car or in a club or bar where people may be looking for an easy target.

Aside from putting yourself at risk of endangering your life and others' behind the

wheel, or for being taking advantage of in a club, other effects of "spice" and similar drugs can pose a serious risk to your health. These effects include paranoia, depression, anxiety, impaired memory, increased appetite, dry mouth, fast heart rate and high blood pressure. Because few human studies exist, the chronic and long-term effects of "spice" are not well-known. It is likely that effects will be similar to long-term marijuana use such as emphysema, decreased testosterone levels and sperm counts in men, increased rates of

U.S. Defense Secretary meets with Afghan President

DONNA MILES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KABUL, Afghanistan — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates arrived today, the first senior U.S. official to visit with Afghan President Hamid Karzai since President Barack Obama's announcement last week of his new strategy for Afghanistan. Gates was slated to kick off his visit with a one-on-one session with Karzai to discuss Obama's decision and how the United States and its allies plan to implement it as they partner with Afghan national security forces, he told reporters during the flight here. The discussion will be Gates' first with Karzai since the president's announcement, he said. He talked briefly with Afghan Defense Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak the night before Obama's address. Another major message will be the importance of a long-term relationship among the U.S. military, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan national security forces, he said.

The United States will work to reduce its forces, over time, as the security situation improves, Gates said. At that point, its relationship with Afghanistan will focus more heavily on civilian developmental and economic areas, more reflective of its relationships with other countries around the world, he added. "But we intend to be their partner for a long time to come," he said, vowing not to abandon Afghanistan. "We are not going to repeat the experience of 1989," he said, referring to the United States walking away from involvement with Afghanistan when the Soviet Union ended its occupation. Gates said he'll emphasize



U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates walks with Afghan President Hamid Karsai at the presidential palace iin Kabul Dec. 8. Gates is on his first trip to Southwest Asia following President Barack Obama's decision to send additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan.

during his talks here the importance of "capable, honest ministers" in Afghanistan, particularly within the Defense and Interior ministries, which have a direct link to the success of U.S. and partner-nation operations here. Expressing confidence in Wardak and in Interior Minister Mohammad Hanif Akmar, Gates shared Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's view that the Afghan government is getting an unfairly critical assessment from some corners. "There is a tendency to paint this government with too broad a brush," he said. "The fact is, there are competent, capable, honest ministers and

there are capable, competent and honest governors." "And we just need to encourage that." During his visit here, Gates said he'll ask the Afghan leaders about prospects for increasing the retention and recruitment of Afghan national security forces, and stepping up the U.S. and partner countries' training partnerships with them. He called it an "eye opener" to learn during last week's congressional hearings that the Taliban pay more than the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police. "So raising the pay of police, and putting in place a number of additional incentives and bonuses

... for the Army, such as combat pay ... clearly will help," he said. Gates cited the need to increase the size of the Afghan National Army to give relief to overtaxed soldiers. Attrition in the Afghan army is highest in the west and north where the combat is heaviest, he noted. "The reason is, there aren't enough of them, and they basically fight until they die, or they go AWOL, because there is nobody to rotate in behind them so they can get a break," he said. "So [increasing] the numbers, and getting to be in a position where you can rotate some of these Afghan soldiers, I think, will be an important part of the retention piece as well," he said.



An Afghan Honor Guard stands at attention as Afghan President Hamid Karzai and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates walk through the honor cordon at the presidential palace in Kabul, Dec. 8.

Medical gets blunt on heath risks of spice

HERB FROM PAGE 3

schizophrenia, depression and the reduced ability to establish or obtain goals in life. There may also be an association with lung and head/neck cancers. Some data also suggest these "legal drugs" act as gateway drugs to dangerous agents such as cocaine and heroin. These drugs remain legal in many countries because legal systems and medical research organizations cannot keep pace with properly reviewing and banning them as quickly as they are appearing on the market. Because of the health and safety concerns surrounding the use of "spice," the Secretary of the Navy, Commander, Naval Forces Japan and Commander, Fleet Activities, Yokosuka ban the use of the drug. Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5300.28D prohibits the use of substances with the intent to induce intoxication, excitement or stupefaction of the central nervous system. CFAY Instruction 5830.1 specifically prohibits the purchase, use or possession of "spice" by all members of the U.S. Navy, civilian components and family members at CFAY. Military members may be punished for violating these instructions under the UCMJ and civilian employees and family members may face administrative action. Just because a drug claims to be "all natural" or "safe" does not mean it is. Beware of these traps and remember that drug abuse and dependence, even on "natural" drugs, can cost you not only your military career, but also your health.

Heat the Streets 10K Run/5K Walk



American and Japanese runners take off from the starting line during the annual Heat the Streets 10K Run/5K Walk at the IronWorks Gym here Sunday. The runners ran from the front of the gym to the marina and back. The top three runners from each gender and age category were awarded trophies.

Runners don't let 47 degree weather slow them down

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

It may have been only about 47 degrees fahrenheit outside, but that didn't stop the runners from bringing the heat at the annual Heat the Streets 10K Run and 5K Walk Sunday at the IronWorks Gym here. The station invited local Japanese nationals to come aboard the station and partake in some friendly competition with community members. One hundred fifty-nine runners participated, 30 American and 129 Japanese.

Runners were categorized according to their age and gender, and the top three runners in each category were awarded a trophy. The categories were: 29 years and under, 30-39 years, 40-49 years, 50-59 years, and 60 years and up. A Japanese runner in the 29 years and under division, Nagashita Takahisa, was the first to complete the race with a time of 33:33. Takahisa was closely followed by Fujimura Takashi and Ishizu Hideki, also of the 29 years and under division, with times of 33:43 and 33:58 respectively.

One would think that the cold weather would slow a runner's time, but participants refused to let the conditions affect them. One participant even made the comment that the mind-altering cold was fine as long as their legs worked. It just goes to show the passion and competitive nature the participants exhibited.

"I started running to lose weight. Some of the ladies I know said that they were running, too, so that gave me reason to run," said Sayaka Takabayashi, Japanese participant and fitness class instructor at the IronWorks Gym. "People running here today, it's good. Even if they walk, or run, it's better than not doing anything," Takabayashi added.

Heat the Streets wasn't just a competition. It served an even bigger purpose — building a lasting relationship with the station's host country.

"Events like these are good to show camaraderie, work together and be good hosts, because we're in their country," said Vickie Feyedelem, runner who took third place in the Women's 30-39 division.

"I think it's good to give them the opportunity to participate in some of the events we have and get that bond a little closer," she added.

After completing the race and walk, community members and local Japanese nationals enjoyed the opportunity to socialize while enjoying refreshments.

It's important to invite Japanese onto the base for events like this because it's different from what they think, said Takabayashi. It's not just people walking around in uniform. There's a lot more going on, she added.



Nagashita Takahisa, a Japanese runner, took first place in the Men's 29 years and under division during the annual Heat the Streets 10K Run/5K Walk at the IronWorks Gym here Sunday. He finished with a time of 33:33 and was the first competitor to finish the race.

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

Heat the Streets 10K Run Results

Men's 29 years and under
Nagashita Takahisa 33:33
Fujimura Takashi 33:43
Ishizu Hideki 33:58

Men's 30-39 years
Kato Kazunori 35:55
Nakamura Junichi 36:02
Takahashi Ryohei 36:49

Men's 40-49 years
Hituhara Hirokazu 37:32
Shibata Akira 38:48
Hakoshima Shinji 39:11

Men's 50-59 years
Nakamoto Yukihiro 37:58
Katada Kotaro 39:46
Omoto Shigeru 43:33

Men's 60 years and over
Muranaka Shiniichi 39:29
Yamauchi Kazuki 43:30
Okada Toshio 45:16

Women's 29 years and under
Kim Spinoza 59:31
Koga Yorie 1:01:34
Deborah Wright 1:06:40

Women's 30-39 years
Sakane Miho 41:28
Maruhira Hiromi 46:05
Vickie Feyedelem 46:06

Women's 40-49 years
Kubuki Yukari 54:17
Doi Kumi 55:08
Takayama Seiko 59:12

Women's 50-59 years
Nakamoto Mikako 54:09
Kanzaki Yasuko 56:52

Women's 60 years and over
Takada Nobuko 55:49



Japanese and American motorcycle riders prepare to begin a Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally here Dec. 6.



A variety of motorcycles, like this vintage Harley-Davidson, invaded the station during the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally here Dec. 6. A mass "thunder run" ride around the perimeter of the base united cruisers, sport bikes and custom motorcycles alike.

More than 130 motorcycles cruise around Penny Lake during the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally here Dec. 6. The annual event promotes the Corps' Toys for Tots campaign, which collects new, unwrapped toys each year and distributes the gifts to needy children in the community where the campaign was conducted.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JOSH COX
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

More than 130 rumbling motorcycles invaded Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's streets during the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally here Dec. 6. The annual event, coordinated by the MCAS Iwakuni Motorcycle Club and Single Marine Program, promotes the Corps' Toys for Tots campaign, which collects new, unwrapped toys each year and distributes the gifts to needy children in the community where the campaign is conducted.

Mike Gingles, who served as a rally coordinator, said the ticket into the rally and ride is one new toy.

"The Japanese go out and buy a toy that's no more than 1,000 yen," he explained. "They bring it in, they drop it off — gets them on the base. They get a hamburger, hotdog, soda and have a good time."

The event provided live entertainment, food and games for participating riders.

A mass "thunder run" ride around the perimeter of the base

united the cruisers, sport bikes and custom motorcycles.

Gingles said the station motorcycle club will coordinate a gift-wrapping session to prepare the toys for delivery.

Then, American and Japanese bikers will be invited to personally deliver the toys to children at a local orphanage.

The motorcycle club and SMP coordinate several charitable events throughout the year to support the local community.

A massive rally on Oshima Island in the spring complements the Toys for Tots event.

"Our mission is to build a better relationship with the community," Gingles said.

Gingles said the rally events bring Japanese and American riders together to enjoy motorcycle culture and simultaneously raise funds for those in need.

"I think about the children who don't have Christmas," Gingles added. "Christmas is beginning to be more important in Japan. For us to gather these toys to give to the children in the orphanage means a lot to me. ... Each year the more toys we give the better I feel because that makes a child happy."



(Left) Cpl. Julia A. Henley admires as Darren, the D.A.R.E. lion, playfully drops a toy into a Toys for Tots drop box here Dec. 6. (Above) Custom military decorations adorn a motorcycle involved in the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally here Dec. 6. Dozens of customized bikes cruised the station's streets during the rally.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Lost in translation, Okinawa celebrates code talkers

CPL. HEATHER A. GOLDEN
MARINE CORPS BASES JAPAN

OKINAWA, Japan — Six Marines are credited with saving the lives of countless comrades and securing an American victory during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima.

These six, part of 29 original Navajo code talkers, decoded more than 800 coded messages during the first 48 hours of the battle.

The inspiration
Early in 1942, Philip Johnson, the child of missionaries on a Navajo reservation, a World War I veteran and a fluent speaker of Navajo, met with Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, to pitch the idea of developing an unbreakable code using the Navajo language for use during World War II, according to a report on the subject, available on the Central Intelligence Agency's Web site.

Johnson pointed out the language, which is unwritten and contains variations in syntax, dialect and tonal qualities, would be indecipherable to someone who didn't know the language.

Johnson also showed Vogel it was possible to send and decode a coded message in about 20 seconds, whereas the then-current method of sending and decoding took about 30 minutes. Vogel went for it.

The first steps
The 29 Navajos recruited as the initial code talkers arrived at Camp Elliot, located near San Diego, after recruit training to put together a new code. The code was made more complex with the inclusion of a word substitution system, according to the Web site.

"For us, everything is memory. It's part of our heritage," said Carl Gorman, one of the original 29 code talkers, when asked why Navajos were able to memorize the code as quickly as they did, as stated in Marine Administrative Message 0634/09, which recognizes November as National Native American Heritage Month. "We have no written language. Our songs, our prayers, our stories - they're all handed down

from grandfather to children, and we listen, we hear, we learn to remember everything."

The code
Once each line of code was translated into English, the Marines pieced together the whole message using only the first letter of each of the translated words.

To spell "Army," a code talker might send "wol-la-chee (ant) gah (rabbit) na-as-tso-si (mouse) tsah-as-zih (yucca)," according to the Navajo code talker's dictionary, available on www.history.navy.mil.



Navajo code talkers developed an unbreakable code using the Navajo language in the Pacific theater during World War II. The language is unwritten and contains variations in syntax, dialect and tonal qualities making it almost impossible for someone who doesn't know the language to decipher.

Each letter had several words associated with it. "A" was represented by "wol-la-chee (ant)," "be-la-sana (apple)" and "tse-nill (axe)."

There was also a specialized list of words to represent common military terms, as listed in the dictionary. For example, the code word for "battleship" is "lo-tso," literally translated as whale.

The dictionary, which originally contained

211 words, included 411 by the war end, according to the CIA Web site.

The impact
At first, some military leaders were skeptical about the new system. According to the CIA's report, the code talkers were tested before being trusted with combat-related messages. They proved themselves by sending, receiving and decoding the messages in record time and without error.

"Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima," said then Maj. Howard Connor, the signal officer for 5th Marine Division at the Battle of Iwo Jima, according to www.navajo.org.

Navajo code talkers were a key component of many of the major battles in the Pacific, including Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Peleliu.

The recognition
The world wouldn't know the part Navajo code talkers played until 1968, when the code was declassified. In 1982, former President Ronald Reagan dubbed Aug. 14 "Navajo Code Talkers Day."

Their story and the contributions of Native Americans across the nation are also remembered during each National Native American Heritage Month.

"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," said President Barak Obama in a proclamation officially naming November as National Native American Heritage Month 2009.

The legacy upheld
Today, there are 2,409 Native Americans serving as active duty Marines, and 1,508 Native Americans serving in the Marine Corps Reserve, according to Headquarters Marine Corps. So far, 5,509 active duty and reserve Native American Marines have served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Navajo code talkers march in formation at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., during the World War II era.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

American Red Cross Holiday Party
A holiday party for all Red Cross volunteers, community partners and the community will be held Dec. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the American Red Cross Office. Santa will also be making an appearance. For more information, call 253-4525.

5th Annual "Holiday Extravaganza"
The International Holiday Concert will be 7:30-9 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Iwakuni Sinfonia Concert Hall. There will be performances by the M.C. Perry kids chorus, Gospel Choir, Japanese & American singers, American Rock Band, Rockin Christmas and many more. To obtain tickets, visit the Information Tours & Travel office

6th Annual Angel Tree Gift Exchange
The MCX will hold its 6th Annual Angel Tree Gift Exchange 9-10 a.m. Dec. 19. Participants select a name from the tree and buy a present, which will

or station chapel.

be given to kids from the Yahata Children's Home. Santa, along with Chaplain Baker and his staff, will hand out the presents.

Youth & Teens Holiday Party
A Youth and Teens Holiday Party will be held Dec. 29 at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom "A." There will be a disc jockey, light finger foods, prizes and a chance to vote for the best dancers. The party for ages 10-12 will be 6-8:30 p.m. and 9-11:30 p.m. for ages 13-18. For more information, contact K.C. Rich at 253-5284.

Library Renovations
The fiction, DVD and children's section, and computer lab at the station library will be closed off 9 a.m.-5 p.m. until Sunday for a recarpeting project. The library will be closed to all patrons Monday through Dec. 18 to finish the project. Normal library hours will resume Dec. 19.

UMUC Spring Registration
Registration for the spring session is un-

derway. Registration is running until Jan. 18. On site classes are held Jan. 18-March 14. Distance Education classes run from Jan. 25 to April 4.

Hornet's Nest Renovations
The Hornet's Nest is currently undergoing renovations scheduled to be completed June 2010. The recreational areas will be under renovation until March 1. The gym area will be closed March 1-June 1. The Cyber Café, located in Building 1345 next to the Wood Hobby Shop, will remain open 24 hours a day seven days a week during the renovations. Single Marine Program trips will continue and can be paid for in the Cyber Café or the Marine Lounge. For more information, contact Jay Stovall at 253-3585.

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 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.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans
The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society provides 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.

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

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

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic
Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tues. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults


Protestant
Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
11 a.m. Children's Church
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints
Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities

Teen Programs
• High School Meetings (Club - grades 9-12)
• Junior High Meetings (Club JV - grades 7-8)
• HS&JR Bible Studies
• Retreats
• Service Projects
• Missions Trip
• Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring
• Parent Support Group
Contact the youth director at 080-4177-2060 or jletaw@clubbeyond.org for more information.

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



"Eat your 80s" - A live 1-hour radio show that features the best 80s music. Noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, on Power 1575.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, December 11, 2009
7 p.m. The Blind Side (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Law Abiding Citizen (R)

Saturday, December 12, 2009
1 p.m. Planet 51 (PG)
Premier
4 p.m. Whip It (PG-13)
7 p.m. Couples Retreat (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Stepfather (PG-13)

Sunday, December 13, 2009
1 p.m. Where the Wild Things Are (PG)
4 p.m. The Blind Side (PG-13)
7 p.m. Law Abiding Citizen (R)

Monday, December 14, 2009
7 p.m. Surrogates (R)
Last showing

Tuesday, December 15, 2009
7 p.m. The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13)

Wednesday, December 16, 2009
7 p.m. Zombieland (R)

Thursday, December 17, 2009
7 p.m. Chuck Milligan Comedy Show (All Ages)
Doors open at 6 p.m.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1994 Toyota Lucida
Great vehicle, lots of room, drives great, front moon roof, rear sun roof, sport wheels, AM/FM/CD player, 22 months left on JCI. Asking \$2,700 OBO. For more information, call 080-3246-5384.

1998 Honda Accord
JCI until April 2011. In good condition, great for a family of four, brand new tires. Asking \$2,000 OBO. Must sell. For more information, please call 253-2809 (home), 080-3707-5021 (cell) or email choladomingo@yahoo.com.

Miscellaneous

60 inch projection HDTV with entertainment

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

stands.
All in good condition. Asking \$600 OBO. For more information, call 253-2650 (home) or 090-6525-6786 (cell).

Baby items for sale
BOB stroller handlebar console (brand new) – 19
Graco Snug Ride car seat base (brand new) – \$40
For more information, call Carrie at 253-2703.

Baby items for sale
Fisher Price cradle swing – \$20 OBO.
Bouncer – \$5 OBO
Safety 1st bath center – new \$7, used \$4
Baby boy clothes – sizes 3-6 months, 6-9 months, 9-12 months.
If interested, call 253-2735 (home) or 080-

3172-7210 (cell).

Rainbow Home Day Care
Have openings for full-time, part-time, and hourly children from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-days – 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.

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. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

Slated chapel holiday services schedule

Dec. 20
3 p.m.- Catholic Advent pageant and dinner
Dec. 24
5 p.m.- Catholic Christmas vigil mass
7 p.m.- Protestant Christmas Eve service
11:30 p.m.- Catholic carols and midnight mass
Dec. 25
9 a.m.- Catholic Christmas day mass
Dec. 31
7 p.m.- Protestant New Year's Eve service
Jan. 1
9 a.m.- Catholic Mary, mother of God mass

For more information, contact the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

Slated upcoming holiday Commissary hours

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 commissary operating hours will resume Jan. 3.

Hours will be published in the Iwakuni Approach for the remainder of the holiday season.

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.

Emergency phone numbers for the station

Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Hotline 253-2837

This line should be used to report suspicious persons or vehicles, suspicious activities or to report people taking pictures aboard the air station

All Emergencies 119 or 911

This line should be utilized for “life, limb or loss of vision threatening” emergencies, nearby building(s) on fire, medical assist, assaults, domestic violence, rape and sexual assaults, traffic accidents, hazardous material spills, dead persons or suspicious packages.

From a Cellular Telephone (0827) 21-7700

This line should be utilized to report emergencies requiring bilingual capability (Japanese - English) or to report emergencies using a cell phone while aboard the station.

Provost Marshal's Office – Security Issues 253-3303

Crash Crew scorched by AFN

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 8th Annual Dodge Ball Tournament beamed in to action here at the IronWorks Gym basketball courts Saturday with AFN taking the first place title in an improbable finish.

AFN jumped to a quick start, winning their first match against the Kamikazes and moved on to face 65B. Crash Crew won their first game as well, beating the tournament favorite Five-O to move on and face ADAA in the second round of the tournament.

The double-elimination tournament had a total of eight teams competing, so each team couldn't afford to make too many mistakes or else they went home early.

“Our team strategy was to not go up without a blocker and keep our double teams so that we had someone to cover our back and not get crazy,” said Justin Simons, member of AFN and tournament most valuable player.

After winning their first games, both teams had a while to wait as the loser's bracket had to compete as well on the same court. Five-O was the first team to be eliminated from the tournament.

“I thought Five-O was going to pose the biggest threat, because they looked pretty good in the preliminaries,” said Brian Niemczyk, member of Crash Crew.

Following Five-O were the Kamikazes as they also lost two straight; then Average Joes fell to the Samurai Knights.

In the regular bracket, AFN and Crash Crew both won their second games with ease and set up what would be a preview to the championship game in the quarterfinals of the tournament.

Before the quarter final match, Niemczyk said AFN was definitely the underdogs, but they were looking good out there.

Crash Crew started off good, knocking out two of AFN's key players, but Rachel Moore, a member of AFN, called a time out to substitute two teammates for another two teammates back in. Once AFN had their top four back on the quart, their balls were on fire as they surprisingly took down Crash Crew in a best of three set.

“I told them we were better than what we are, and we proved it,” said Simons.

Crash Crew's loss put them into the loser's bracket but not out of the tournament. It was clear that in order for a team to win they had to go through AFN, which wasn't as easy as first thought.

Crash Crew faced the Samurai Knights in the loser's bracket final and won to earn another shot at AFN and the championship.

It came down to a best of three matches once again in which Crash Crew won the first match when time expired. They had more men on the court, so the win went to them.

AFN regrouped and came out on fire, eliminating all players from Crash Crew to tie it up and force a third match.

Crash Crew's strategy at this point was to take out AFN's top players then work the weaker ones. It paid off as they took the win and the set.

Had AFN won, that would have been the tournament, but since Crash Crew won, it forced a final championship game to end the tournament.

“Winners take home the trophy and losers just go home,” said Tony Stone, official for the tournament just before play commenced.

Both teams came out strong, utilizing the teams' strategies, but in the end, it came down to Kevin Harmon to hang in there for Crash Crew once all other teammates were knocked out, and unfortunately, he was unable to pull off the win.

Harmon was called for a line violation, which cost his team the game, and more importantly, the championship.

“We were the best team. We didn't lose once in the tournament,” said Simons. “Crash Crew put up a good fight in the end.”



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Tony Orth (left) and Jacob Moore (right) utilize their team strategy of the double team during the 8th Annual Dodge Ball Tournament held at IronWorks Gym here Saturday.



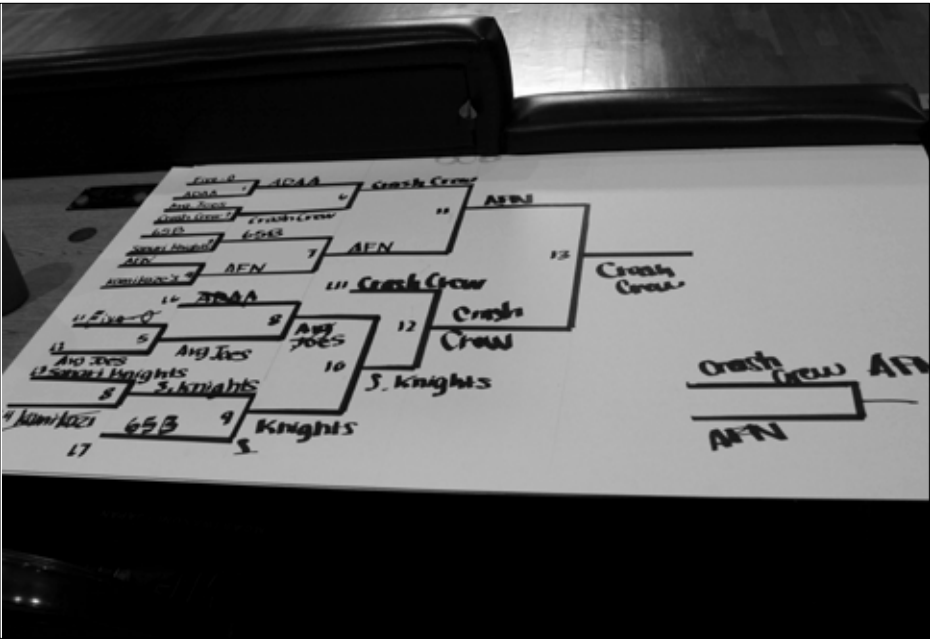
LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

AFN's Jacob Moore, with a rocket of an arm, nails one of Crash Crew's players during the championship game of the 8th Annual Dodge Ball Tournament held at the IronWorks Gym here Saturday.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

From left to right Jacob Moore, Katelyn Dubois, Garrit Fox, Justin Simons, Tony Orth and Rachael Moore pose with their first place plaques after the award ceremony following the championship game of the 8th Annual Dodge Ball Tournament held at IronWorks Gym here Saturday. Justin Simons was named the tournament's most valuable player.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A game bracket was on display for all participants to view during the 8th Annual Dodge Ball Tournament held at the IronWorks Gym here Saturday.

Jingle Bell Jog 2009

1.5k Fun Run!

Food,
Fun,
Music
& Santa!

Hot Cocoa,
Cider
& Cookies!



Get into the Holiday Spirit!
Dress up and head down to the IronWorks Gym.

December 21

Check-in 10 a.m. • 11 a.m. Run begins

Fill the streets with Holiday Cheer
Semper Fit Style



☎ 253-6359

www.mccsiwakuni.com/hp

