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THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 2, Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Members of the Harbor patrol prepare to take Japanese dignitaries out in the harbor on the Port Harbor Boat on Dec. 20 to demonstrate the boat's capabilities. The Harbor Patrol Boat or PHB-1 is the only one of its kind for patrolling the air station's inner harbor.

Harbor gets new boat to step up security

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The air station recently showcased its newest asset in its mission to safeguard the harbor. The Harbor Patrol Boat was officially unveiled and christened here Dec. 20 as dignitaries of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Japanese Coast Guard looked on.

The Harbor Patrol Boat is a unique, one-of-a-kind vessel, which will be used to patrol the harbor and make sure the harbor stays secure. It outclasses many boats of similar size.

"We ran the boat hard," said Chief Petty Officer

SEE **BOAT** ON PAGE 3

New C-12 to replace older models

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Quick. Up in the air. Through the clouds and rain. It's a plane braving the elements and making a two-week voyage to land here. The Marine Corps has decided to upgrade its C-12 fleet, starting with replacing the C-12s here Dec. 21.

"What we are doing here is replacing the older Fox model C-12s with the new Whiskey models that we have coming in," Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, said. "We will eventually have two C-12Ws on station."

The C-12 is a military version of the King Air 200 aircraft.

"We have two on station right now; we are also receiving a

third Super King Air 350," said Sgt. Brandon Fisher, the fixed-wing Marine reconnaissance detachment operations chief here.

The current C-12Fs have been on station for the past 22 years.

"The aircraft we are getting will be here for quite some time," Fisher said.

The new C-12s will be more versatile than their predecessors.

The C-12 aircraft fall under operational support aircraft.

"What OSA does is task us to carry passengers as well as cargo throughout the area," Coletta said.

Also, VIPs frequently fly on the aircraft while in the area.

"Besides VIPs, we have the

SEE **JET** ON PAGE 3

Shuttle bus schedule change

PFC. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The station shuttle bus has a new schedule that took place Dec. 26 due to the South Side Mess Hall closure.

The new shuttle schedule will be in effect until renovations of the South Side Mess Hall are completed.

Once the mess hall is re-opened, the shuttle will resume its old schedule, said Chief Equipment Operator Kathryn Remm.

The old shuttle schedule used to have two busses running during peak hours; however, the new schedule changed this.

The morning and afternoon

SEE **SHUTTLE** ON PAGE 3

Bridge to be reduced to one lane

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to reduce the Monzen bridge from two lanes of traffic to one beginning Thursday and ending Feb. 15. The reduction to one lane of traffic will take place daily from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SEE **BRIDGE** ON PAGE 3



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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'With Thanksgiving - a Year Well Spent'

LT. ROBERT E. MILLS
STATION CHAPLAIN

As I wrote this article, it was Dec. 31, 2010. The year was almost finished with just a few more hours before the new year.

The day prior, my family and I had the opportunity to spend a few quality minutes on our webcams with my brothers, their wives and my mom.

It was bittersweet because I could see them and talk to them, but was not able to be with them at this really fun time of year.

I miss the times we used to have during the holidays, sharing stories together, eating great food, playing outside in the snow (we are from Maine) and making great memories.

As I looked at their faces and heard their laughter, I thought about the sacrifices we all make for the cause of freedom.

These sacrifices, primarily those of leaving our homes and loved ones for months or years at a time, are real, painful, and very important.

I have to say I am very thank-

ful for the good people of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni who make those sacrifices a little easier – who make all of our lives here a little better.

As I was thinking about the year, I decided to list out just a few of the things I am thankful for from 2010.

I am thankful for good people to work with. I don't want to take for granted the chaplains, religious program specialists, and other professionals I have the opportunity to serve with every day. You are all awesome.

I'm thankful to be working and living in Japan. This is an incredibly beautiful country, and the Japanese people are so nice and friendly. I know of other countries where this is definitely not the case. May you be blessed for your kind hospitality and grace.

I am also very thankful to have the opportunity to be doing meaningful work every day I go to the office. Even on the days when I'm doing paperwork, I know the administrative work I do is designed to enable the cha-

pel and chaplains to work more effectively to better help this community, and that is a wonderful thing. For me, it is even better when I can directly interact with Marines, sailors and family members in ways to help them. I love working here and I love the work I do!

I'm thankful for the great Marines, sailors, family members and supporting professionals here in Iwakuni. This place would be a ghost town without the people, and you are the air station's most important asset. As I walk or drive around the base, I see familiar faces – faces of people I have come to respect, and in many cases, to love.

You see, it is the people here who make it all happen.

It is you who make our time here so precious.

As you read this, 2011 will already be under way.

I hope you will take a few minutes to give thanks for the good things of 2010 and look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of 2011.

May God richly bless you.

BOAT FROM PAGE 1

Grandvedour N. Price, officer-in-charge of harbor operations.

The vessel was often pushed to its limits by the personnel to test its capabilities and maneuverability.

"It handles like a sports car would on the road," said Petty Officer 2nd Class William Martin, assistant chief engineer for harbor operations. "The maneuverability of this boat is unlike any other boat that we have."

The introduction of the HPB-1 will further enhance harbor security.

"The boats that we had here were not equipped to be used as force protection boats," Price said.

"This is the granddaddy of all boats for security," Price said. "It has a lot of capabilities that the other boats don't have. It has three M240 mounts and night vision capabilities. We can carry more packs onboard. Safety has definitely increased."

The HPB-1 also has two 350 horsepower



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

The Harbor Patrol Boat accelerates to its top speed to demonstrate a quick, 180-degree turn around the station harbor here Dec. 20. This maneuver would be applied during a man overboard scenario.

turbo-jet engines, enabling the boat to reach a top speed of 46 knots when empty. These

engines also enable the boat to make sudden, abrupt stops or make quick, sharp, 180-degree turns in the need of an emergency, such as a man overboard or target engagement. Also, a total of 11 personnel or 3,500 pounds can be seated in the vessel.

All members of harbor operations will be qualified to drive the boat if need be, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Allen B. Hawkins, chief engineer for harbor operations.

The boat's overall goal of safeguarding will still be a top priority as far as harbor operations mission is concerned.

Price also said that the boat's mission would not deviate from its original purpose of being a force protection boat. A brief would be put together by several personnel to reinforce this and also give a distinctive and concrete outline on the vessel's responsibilities.

The HPB-1 arrived several months behind schedule due to the sophistication of the vessel. However, the boat was still put through the paces to ensure it is able to perform to expectations.

Globe-trotting aircraft arrives at Iwakuni

JET FROM PAGE 1

opportunity to participate in exercises transporting passengers or equipment," Fisher said. "We can also provide on-call support to anyone who needs to be medically evacuated."

The C-12 and its crew started their journey Dec. 9 in New Orleans.

Over the next 13 days, they flew to New York, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Italy, Greece, Jordan, Dubai, India, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines and finally touched down here.

"We had two choices," Coletta said. "We could have went east, straight to

Japan. The downside to that is it's in the middle of the winter with bad weather. There is one island they would have to hit perfectly to refuel, and I didn't want to have that big of a risk."

With safety as the number one priority, the welcoming party on the flight line felt as if Santa brought an early Christmas present.

"This is great. I feel like a kid on Christmas right now," Fisher said. "This has been seven months in the process to get the C-12 here, so it's an early Christmas present for us."



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

The new C-12 Whiskey, rolling in off the runway after braving the poor weather conditions, ended its two-week-long globe-trotting journey here Dec. 21. The new C-12 was an early Christmas present for the station and the first of two new planes to launch the global upgrade throughout the fleet Marine Corps.

The crew is just getting back to spend Christmas with their families, so everything worked out perfectly."

The older aircraft will make the same journey but in reverse.

The old C-12Fs are slated to be delivered to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

Schedule change: New shuttle bus to run from south to north side for chow

SHUTTLE FROM PAGE 1

peak schedules did not change, while the evening did.

The evening now has an additional shuttle bus dedicated to getting Marines from the barracks bus stop to the North Side Mess Hall, said Remm.

During weekdays, a dedicated mess hall shuttle will run 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. On weekend, 3 - 5:30 p.m. from the bus stop in front of Barracks 313 to the North Side Mess Hall and back with no stops in between.

During the day there is a temporary mess hall for south side customers to reduce the hassle of getting food, said Master Sgt. John Bass, station food technician.

Breakfast and lunch are temporarily being served at Building 276, the warehouse building across the street from Combat Logistics Company 36 headquarters.

When using the shuttles during dinner time for the north side mess hall, be sure to get on the correct bus.

In order to tell the shuttles apart in the evening, there is a sign clearly marked "Special, North Side Mess Hall", said constructionman Anthony West, a Facilities construction electrician.

Renovations are planned to last a minimum of six months, said Bass.

This modified bus schedule is slated to continue until renovations are completed.

BRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

The need for the bridge to have one lane of traffic is so that platforms may be erected. These platforms will make it possible for sewage from the Monzen area to flow to a new treatment facility.

A new sanitary sewer line will be installed beneath the bridge to connect outgoing sewage to a new sewage treatment facility said Dale Barlow, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' resident engineer.

The new sewage treatment facility, located near Penny Lake, was completed in March of 2010.

The new plant is scheduled to replace several older sewage treatment facilities said Barlow. One of these plants is located within the Monzen housing area.

Along with the Corps of Engineers, members of the Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau and a private contractor will help facilitate the new sewage line's installation as the weeks go by.

During this project, no bridge improvements will be made.

The timeframe for working on the bridge will be centered on the flow of traffic to and from the base. The work times for the bridge allow the engineers to avoid the influx of commuters and to do their job with minimal delays for themselves as well as drivers.

Free Admission

U.S.-JAPAN Friendship Concert in IWAKUNI

M. C. Perry High School Iwakuni municipal Higashi junior high school Iwakuni municipal Kawashimo junior high school

Sun 30 Jan 2011, 3:00 PM
Doors open at 2:00 PM

Sinfonia Iwakuni Concert Hall (1F)
1-1-1, Mikasa-cho, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi-ken

- About 0.8km south from JR Iwakuni Station.
- About 10 minutes by walking.
- About 5 minute walk from Mikasa bridge bus stop.
- About 10km away from JR Sanyo Shinkansen Shin-iwakuni Station. (About 20 minutes by car)

※To avoid traffic congestion, please use public transportation.

[POC] Local Coordination Division Planning Department Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau/TEL. 082-223-5153

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Robling takes final flight as III MEF commander with VMFA(AW)-242



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 F/A-18 Hornet number 02 goes through a shower of water after the last III Marine Expeditionary Force flight of Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling here Dec. 28.

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling, took his last flight here Dec. 28 as the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases Japan commander.

“I had a great flight today,” said Robling. “This has been a great command with a lot of great Marines, and I hate to leave it.”

Robling is headed to Washington D.C. where he will serve as the deputy commandant of aviation at the Pentagon.

“It is a great command. One of the things we wanted to improve was our readiness,” said Robling. “We improved our readiness and support to the contingency plans that are in this (area of responsibility) and overall got the Marines headed in the right direction as far as off base liberty incidents, too.”

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and 225 Marines assisted in coordinating Robling’s last flight.

Although Robling has years of flight experience under his belt, he had to prepare for his final 3rd MEF flight as if he were a new pilot.

“Every time a pilot gets a new harness or every 360 days, we have to perform a hang check,” said Cpl. Brian Wendely, VMFA(AW)-225

flight equipment technician.

During a hang check, pilots are hoisted onto pull-up bars to check the security of several parts of their flight equipment, including their harness and parachute.

“We had to have him put on his G-suit, his harness, and his helmet and basically simulate him having to eject to make sure everything works properly,” said Wendely.

After ensuring safety, Robling made his way into the aircraft. Robling took the role of the aircraft weapons-system operator and Lt. Col. Jeffery Ertwine, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 executive officer, piloted the aircraft.

One hour after take-off, fire trucks parked at the end of the runway to spray two victory streams of water over the aircraft as it taxied in.

The aircraft made its way through the streams of water and parked. Robling’s last 3rd MEF flight was complete.

“I think the Pacific Asia region is probably the most important region for America, and I think the Marines will be a big supporting role in that,” said Robling. “I would expect that our presence in the future will be increased because of that.”

Robling thanked the Marines for making his last 3rd MEF flight successful and removed his flight equipment, possibly for the last time in his career.

Ordnance: Technicians test, inspect, to ensure bombs boom at right time



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Lance Cpl. Casey Hayes, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 aviation ordnance technician, ensures a launch adapter unit is safely secured to a VMFA(AW)-225 F/A-18 Hornet during a unit-level training exercise here Dec. 17. Aviation ordnance technicians ensure all ordnance is safely secured several times before a jet can take off.

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — As the first fighter/attack designed jet, the F/A-18 Hornet has become one of the Marine Corp’s most useful jets.

Capable of attaching many types of ordnance and reaching speeds of Mach 1.7, the F/A-18 Hornet can be described as a “drop and go” jet.

The F/A-18 Hornet’s ability to quickly mobilize and attack may seem like a simple load-and-go process, but some may fail to realize the time-consuming process necessary to prepare live ordnance for engagement.

“All of us as aircrew know that the ordnance men have to go through a series of different procedures to make sure our bombs, racks and all the systems in the airplane are ready to perform,” said Maj. Josh Pieczonka, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 pilot.

VMFA(AW)-225 aviation ordnance technicians loaded and tested 5-inch rockets, laser-guided training missiles and MK-76 rounds on VMFA(AW)-225 jets during a unit-level training exercise here Dec. 17.

VMFA(AW)-225 falls under the Unit Deployment Program. UDP squadrons deploy throughout the Western Pacific for periods of approximately six months to gain unit cohesion and training.

For this particular training, VMFA(AW)-225’s mission was to provide close-air support for 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Marines on the ground.

The preparation for this live-ordnance training doesn’t start the morning of training, but the night prior.

“We focus mostly on loading and testing the ordnance, and night crew mostly focuses on maintenance,” said Lance Cpl. Kent Hinderleider, VMFA(AW)-225 aviation ordnance technician.

The technicians spend hours ensuring the ordnance is safe to load the night before ordnance loading.

Once the

ordnance is approved by the night crew, the day crew begins its morning by testing the aircraft for stray voltage before loading pounds and pounds of explosives onto the jets.

“If stray voltage is traveling throughout the aircraft, as soon as we plug ordnance to the aircraft, those rockets could shoot off right where we’re standing,” said Gunnery Sgt. William B. Payne, VMFA(AW)-225 aviation ordnance chief.

Once the ordnance technicians confirm stray voltage is absent, they load the ordnance and perform another safety check before the pilots arrive for takeoff.

“We try to train like we fight; so every time we launch a jet, it’s the same procedure whether we’re doing it in Iwakuni or we’re doing it in Afghanistan,” Payne said.

“The third time’s a charm” is a phrase VMFA(AW)-225 aviation ordnance technicians don’t overlook. As the jets taxi for takeoff, the pilots are redirected and stopped by a group of ordnance technicians who perform one last stray voltage and safety check on the live ordnance.

“Not everybody has (communication chords) in their cranial, and we don’t always have enough time. So it’s a lot faster if we can just give (the pilots) hand and arm signals; that way they know what we’re talking about, and we know what they’re talking about too,” said Payne.

Using only hand and arm signals, an ordnance technician team-leader guides the jets to a stopping point and walks the pilots through the last ordnance check.

Once everything is secured and prepared for engagement, the team leader renders a hand salute and pumps a “shaka,” a common surfer gesture, in the air communicating “get some” to the pilots.

The pilots return a shaka fist and prepare for takeoff.

“The pilots know vaguely what the weapon is and the capabilities the weapon has as far as flight profiles and stuff like that,” said Payne. “But 90 percent of them, if they walked out there and looked at the way it was wired, they wouldn’t know if it was wrong or right. So it’s real important for us to get our end of the deal right, so they can get their end of the deal right, which is dropping bombs on bad guys,” he added.

The pilots take off with only one thing on their mind, providing air support and sending copious explosive force to the enemy.

The aviation ordnance technicians unload and store any unused ordnance at the end of the day, and the safety circle starts all over again with the night crew.

January Promotions

H&HS

Lance Cpl.
Boynton, Martin P.
Bunting, Dwight L.
Kent, Robert D.
Smith, Jacob M.
Torres, Joshua
Vincent, Benjamin A.
Avery, Jeffery L.
Beitzel, Natalie L.
Goeas, Michael L.
Oakry, Sean E.
Sanchez, Sebastian
Schwank, John D.

Cpl.
Borges, Jeremy
Alard, Anthony
Burk, Justin D.
Martinez, Claudio A.
Neher, David M.

Sgt.
Mumme, Brandon L.

Staff Sgt.
Lenac, Ryan A.
Friske, Marcus C.

Detachment Bravo

Lance Cpl.
Roberto, Samuel D.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.
Olson, Kameron D.

MAG-12

Lance Cpl.
Jackson, Edwin F.
Leach, Zachery S.
McClain, Brandon W.

Sgt.
Perry, Michael A.

MALS-12

Pfc.
Bierly, Stephen J.

Lance Cpl.
Brosseau, Phillip M.
Islas, Daniel D.
Russell, Kenneth R.

Cpl.
Baskin, Kyle J.
Carter, Justin L.
Duffie, Charles J.
Medina, Em
Razon, Nicole M.
Talbot, Megan E.

Sgt.
Chitwood, Andrew A.

Staff Sgt.
Plumhoff, Jaqueline A.

Gunnery Sgt.
Norori Jr., Jose D.
Salas, Fabio L.
Wilson, Timothy J.

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.
Alfis, Peter J.
Burns Jr. Douglas C.
Sanchez, Westen J.
Wyche, Jasmin A.

Master Sgt.
Parra Ovidio E.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.
Griffiths, Marshall A.
Guthrie, Joshua B.
Mondt, James R.
Pittman, Christian E.
Senecal, Trevor K.
Stewart, Joshua J.

Cpl.
Holz, Eric G.
Wagner, Rocky S.
Wong, Jeremy K.

Sgt.
Dupree, Gregory J.
Johns, Gordon E.
Lyles, Keith J.

Gunnery Sgt.
Slaughter, Phillip G.



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Lance Cpl. Kent Hinderleider, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 aviation ordnance technician, guides a VMFA(AW)-225 F/A-18 Hornet to a parking point on the runway for an ordnance check here Dec. 17. Hinderleider was the team leader for this particular check. As the team leader, Hinderleider used only hand and arm signals to direct his team of technicians and the pilots through the safety check.

VMFA(AW)-225 Marines return to Iwakuni, conclude Okinawa unit-level training

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 concluded their month long, unit-level training in Okinawa and returned here Jan. 5. “We accomplished what we went down there to do. It was good training in a great training environment,” said Sgt. Maj. Scott D. Boyer, VMFA(AW)-225 sergeant major. “It was good for the Marines and good for morale.”

VMFA(AW)-225 falls under the Unit Deployment Program. The UDP is a program created by the commandant of the Marine Corps to reduce the number of unaccompanied tours and improve unit continuity by deploying units to the Western Pacific for periods of approximately six months.

VMFA(AW)-225 arrived at Air Base Kadena, Okinawa, Japan, Dec. 13 to begin the unit-level training.

“The purpose of this training is to increase our basic air-to-ground close air support and forward air controller airborne capabilities,” said Lt. Col. Dan Goodwin, VMFA(AW)-225 commanding officer.

During the training, VMFA(AW)-225 focused primarily on improving

its forward air controller capabilities by coordinating air-to-ground training with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262.

“What the pilots got out of it was realistic training, and realistic training is the best training,” said Boyer. “It was a good chance for them to hone their skills with infantry on the ground.”

Another goal VMFA(AW)-225 set throughout the deployment was providing its pilots with more aerial qualifications.

“These pilots always need qualifications, and there are only certain areas you can get them, so I obviously wanted the pilots to get more training,” said Boyer.

VMFA(AW)-225 was successful in conducting several FAC-A training exercises and meeting qualification requirements for a majority of its pilots.

“I was extremely pleased that the pilots honed their skills and got the training they needed,” said Boyer. “It makes us a more capable squadron and more prepared to go to battle.”

VMFA(AW)-225 is scheduled to visit several western Pacific areas before concluding its UDP deployment, but for now, live ordnance is stored and it’s back to the simulator for the VMFA(AW)-225 pilots.



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling, former III Marine Expeditionary Force commander, is greeted by a group of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 pilots after completing his final flight here Dec. 28. The pilots concluded their month-long, unit-level training in Okinawa and returned here Jan. 5.



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Cpl. Joseph Williams, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 power line technician, removes a clamp shell from an aircraft to prevent TFOA (things falling off aircraft) during hot pit, hot seat training here Dec. 22.



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Cpl. Brian Wendely, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 flight line technician, performs a hang check on Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling, former III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, before Robling is clear to take his final III MEF flight here Dec. 28. Hang checks are regularly conducted to ensure proper flight gear.



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — A formation of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 Marines is held during a promotion ceremony at the Marine Wing Liaison Kadena hanger here Jan. 3. Before the ceremony, VMFA(AW)-225 officers, staff non commissioned officers and NCOs gave professional military education classes to their peers.



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Lance Cpl. Zachary Hudson, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 avionics technician, loads information into a VMFA(AW)-225 F/A-18 Hornet during hot pit, hot seat training here Dec. 22.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SANGIN, Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. David Ortega and Lance Cpl. Miguel Travino, both members of 2nd Platoon, India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, kneel in a group of trees in southern Sangin during a recent patrol. The Platoon was on an operation to secure a new patrol base in the area. Although on the first three days of the operation, the Marines encountered several firefights and found several improvised explosive devises, they also secured the compound and established a new patrol base.

Marines fight through enemy ambush to build new patrol base

CPL. DANIEL BLATTER
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 2

SANGIN, Afghanistan — Early on the morning of Dec. 21, Marines with 2nd Platoon, India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment moved down into the southern part of India Company’s area of operations to establish a presence there and stop Taliban fighters. The operation was platoon reinforced by a section of snipers, an explosive ordinance disposal team, an improvised explosive device detection dog and an attack dog, Afghan National Army soldiers and interpreters. “The goal of this mission is to establish a long-term presence and a new patrol base for the battalion and we are going to secure areas that have not been secured in the past,” said 1st Lt. Bradley Fromm, the platoon commander for 2nd Platoon, India Company. “It may be us or it may be someone else, but we are going to establish that presence down there so we can bring security to these people and so we can deny the enemy freedom of movement in and throughout the southern port of the Company’s area of operations.” The platoon stepped off early in the morning to defy the enemy’s ability to maneuver on them. “In a past operation in the same area, the platoon itself found 13

IED’s in three days and had several small arms engagements,” said Fromm. “Every time we go out, it’s almost guaranteed to get into a fire fight and if we hang around for more than 30 to 40 minutes it will become a sustained fire fight with the enemy trying to ambush from multiple directions.” With the platoon ready for anything, they moved through the streets to the urban area close to their objective. “I expect, we are going to see some contact coming in from our south and see some enemies trying to move in on us,” said Fromm, 25, from Madison, N.J. “We are pushing into an area that the enemy likes to have and that is friendly to them. So I think that there will be a standoff and we will bring the fight to them.” Just as expected, as the platoon reached an open area that needed to be crossed, they were fired upon by enemy forces. “We set up a support by fire with snipers and machine guns and fired smoke to try to screen our movement across,” said Fromm. “As soon as we stepped off to cross the danger area, we started to take immediate contact from three different directions and we immediately took an urgent casualty. “At that point I got on the hook with the company and started calling in air support and anything else we could get to support us out there.”

The quiet morning was quickly filled with machine gun fire, yelling and the sound of aircraft coming in. “We ended up getting a mixed section of Hueys and Cobras who did multiple rocketing gun runs on the target and silenced the firing as we successfully pulled the casualty back in,” said Fromm. While the support was still overhead the platoon pushed 1st squad across the danger area, allowing them to reach the new patrol base. The squad immediately set up to help support the following squads as they maneuvered across the danger area; however, as 3rd squad was crossing the area, they took fire again. “We called in for artillery support and they gave us one HIMARS [High Mobility Artillery Rocket System] round, which hit its target and all firing ceased at that point,” said Fromm “After that we secured the compound and began setting up a patrol base.” The next few days, the platoon worked on establishing a presence in the area. Patrols were pushed out toward the south securing more terrain. As the Marines patrolled the area, many compounds and locals were searched. “We were able to recover one rifle with a high-powered scope on it while one of the other companies

detained the individual who was firing it,” said Fromm. As the Marines denied the enemy freedom of movement in the area, a new casualty evacuation route and supply route was reinforced by combat engineers who used bulldozers to improve the local road. “The reason why we chose this patrol base particularly is because it is in a central location next to a key bridge across a canal from east to west,” said Fromm. “What we have seen is that enemy forces utilize this bridge to reinforce positions on either side depending on where we are coming down, from. “Immediately after we took this bridge another unit pushed down on the west side of it in the green area and they took significantly less contact as they moved down there thanks to us being here and controlling that point.” Just days into the operation, Marines in the area were already receiving the benefits of 2nd Platoon’s accomplishments. Once the new patrol base was established, the Marines of 2nd platoon began to make arrangements to meet with the local elders to identify any projects or areas that needed improvements. “We are going to start setting up meetings with the local elders so we can build a plan together on how we are going to secure this area.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Club Iwakuni Closure
Club Iwakuni is scheduled to close Monday for renovations and is scheduled to reopen Tuesday. For more information, call 253-5416.

Operation Comfort Care
Marine Corps Family Team Building is collecting donations outside of the Marine Corps Exchange and Commissary throughout the month of January. To volunteer or for more information, call 253-3542 or visit www.mccsvolunteering.org.

January Home and White Sale
The Marine Corps Exchange is scheduled to host a sale on home furnishing items today and Saturday. For more information, call 253-5641.

Commanders Cup Challenge
A volleyball single elimination tournament is scheduled 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jan. 21 at the IronWorks Gym sports courts. For more information, call 253-5051.

One Player Scramble
The Torii Pines Golf Course is scheduled to hold a \$19 one player scramble 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jan. 22. For more information, call 253-3402.

Matthew C. Perry Varsity Cheer Clinic
There is a \$20 varsity cheer clinic for 1st through 8th grade children scheduled 2:45

p.m. - 5 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10. Cheerleaders will perform Feb. 11 at the high school homecoming game. To sign up or for more information, visit or call the Matthew C. Perry Elementary or High School office.

Station Tax Center
The Station Tax Center, located in building 608 (SJA Side), is scheduled to be open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Jan. 25, for single Marines and sailors. For all others, the Tax Center is scheduled to be open Mon-Fri 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. beginning Feb. 1 and by appointment only every Saturday in the month of February. The Tax Center will begin taking appointments on Jan. 31. For more information, call 253-5951, 253-3540, 253-5591, 253-5962.

Mammograms
The “MammoVan” quarterly visit is scheduled Jan. 31 - Feb. 4. Patients requiring their annual mammography scan should contact their primary care manager and obtain a radiology referral. Then they may schedule an appointment Jan 21 - 28 at the clinic’s Radiology department.

DeCA Sponsored 2011 Scholarships for Military Children Program
Scholarship applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online at <http://www.commissaries.com> – choose the “News & Info” tab and then the “Scholarship Info” tab. Applications are also available at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Applications and an essays must be turned

in to the Commissary by close of business Feb. 22. For more information, call 253-4873.

Girl Scout Cookies
Girl Scout cookies are scheduled to be available every weekend at the Marine Corps Exchange, Commissary, Crossroads Mall, Post Office and north side seven day Jan. 7 – 25. For more information, call 253-6454.

21st Iwakuni Area Solo Ensemble Contest
Free of admission, The 21st Iwakuni Area Solo Ensemble Contest is scheduled Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information call the Brass Band Confederation, Iwakuni Branch at 0827-63-0950.

Vehicles

1998 Toyota Spacio
JCI good until February 2012. Asking \$1,500 without JCI or \$2,500 with the JCI. Car is in good shape and clean. For more information, call 253-2540, 080-3705-2974 or e-mail at jessica.lang@pac.dodea.edu.

1997 Honda SMX Wagon
JCI good until April 2012. Asking \$3,000. Car is in excellent condition and maintained regularly. For more information, call 253-6242, 090-649-0498 or e-mail at seangkimhan@hotmail.com.

1999 Harley Davidson Road King
JCI good until July 2012. Asking \$13,000. Motorcycle is well maintained with lots

of upgrades. For more information, call 253-6242, 090-649-0498 or e-mail at seangkimhan@hotmail.com.

1995 Nissan Rasheen
JCI good until June 2011. Asking \$2,500. Car is in good condition. For more information, call 253-5255, 080-3518-4364.

Jobs

WIC Overseas Iwakuni
Choctaw Archiving Enterprise has a full-time job for a Certified Professional Authority nurse, nutritionist, or registered dietitian in the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program in Iwakuni. Position requires a BS in Nutrition, Nursing, or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal, or infant nutrition preferred. Must have references, U.S. citizenship, U.S. driver’s license and Status of Forces Agreement status. Employment conditional upon satisfactory background check. For immediate consideration, please e-mail resume and cover letter to: virginia.johnson.ctr@misawa.af.mil or fax to 226-9585.

Exchange New Car Sales
New Car Sales has high income potential jobs available for Status of Forces Agreement personnel. Sales training will be provided to selected applicants. For more information, call 080-3243-4689.

English Teacher
An English teacher is needed to take over a class in downtown

Iwakuni. For more information call 253-7716.

Travel Counselor
CWTSatoTravel has a travel counselor position available at the government travel office here. This position is responsible for booking air, car and hotel reservations for military travelers in official duty status using the SABRE CRS. Desirable for the candidates to have travel agency or airline experience, and SABRE CRs experience. Knowledge of government travel regulation is also preferred. Please send all inquiries and resumes to mkenat@cwtsatotravel.com. No phone inquiries please.

Brief and Classified Submissions
To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, You may submit your brief or classified ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. However you choose to submit, ensure you provide all requested information to simply the request process and ensure your request is processed properly. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert

A free concert featuring Matthew C. Perry, Iwakuni municipal Higashi junior high school and Iwakuni municipal Kawashimo junior high school is scheduled for 3 p.m. Jan. 30 at Sinfonia Iwakuni Concert Hall.

Doors are scheduled to open at 2 p.m.

Public transportation is recommended to avoid traffic congestion.

For more information, call 082-223-7153.

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 of projected publication date for review by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216.

INFOTAINMENT

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
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy Communion Service (Small Chapel)
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

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

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

Teen Programs
• High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12)
• Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8)
• HS&JR Bible Studies
• Retreats
• Service Projects
• Missions Trip
• Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring
• Parent Support Group
Call 080-4177-2060 or e-mail jletaw@ClubBeyond.org

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

Funny photo of the week



Think you can write a good caption for this photo? Do you have your own funny to submit? Submit your ideas or photos to the Public Affairs Office by e-mailing them to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, calling 253-5551 or submitting your idea in person at the office in Building 1 Room 216. Entries will be judged by the Iwakuni Approach Staff and the top selection will run in the next edition of the Iwakuni Approach.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, January 14, 2011
7 p.m. Skyline (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Morning Glory (PG-13)
Premier

Monday, January 17, 2011
7 p.m. Conviction (R)
Last Showing

Tuesday, January 18, 2011
7 p.m. For Colored Girls (R)
Last Showing

Wednesday, January 19, 2011
1 p.m. Skyline (PG-13)

Thursday, January 20, 2011
7 p.m. Morning Glory (PG-13)

Saturday, January 15, 2011
1 p.m. Tron: Legacy (PG)
4 p.m. Skyline (PG-13)
7 p.m. Conviction (R)

Sunday, January 16, 2011
1 p.m. Yogi Bear (PG)
4 p.m. Morning Glory (PG-13)
7 p.m. Little Fockers (PG-13)

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.



Jake Portillo, Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai center, shoots a free-throw shot during a regular season basketball game against the Camp Zama High School Trojans at the M. C. Perry High School gym here Saturday. The Samurai players managed to narrowly defeat the Trojans 50-48 and bring their record to 11-5.

Samurai edge out Trojans 50-48

PFC. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai came out on top as they dribbled and scored their way to a 50-48 victory over the Camp Zama High School Trojans at the M.C. Perry High School gym here Saturday.

This is the first time the Samurai have played the Trojans this season.

With the win, the Samurai brought their record to 11-5.

“It was a very close game, both teams fought hard, but at the same time we kind of let them get back in it at the end of the game,” said John Ayers Sr., Samurai’s assistant coach.

The players of both teams worked hard for the entire game.

“I’m not unhappy about how the game went,” said Tom Allensworth, Trojans’ head coach. “I would have liked the outcome to have been different.”

The score was neck and neck for most of the game until the Samurai broke free from the point race and took a large lead at the end of the first half.

The Samurai maintained the lead during the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Samurai

players began to show their exhaustion and allowed the Trojans to score multiple points bringing the score back to neck and neck.

There were way too many turn-overs according to Ayers.

The Samurai stole the ball and the victory at the end of the game after several Trojan missed shots.

“There were times when we played a really excellent defense, but there were times when it could have been better,” said Allensworth.

Both teams discovered areas for improvement from this game.

For the Trojans, the mental aspect of the game could be improved upon, such as the patience of the players said Allensworth.

According to John Ayers Jr., a Samurai forward, the team needs to work on not making the turn-overs that were seen in this game.

Overall, the game was rough.

Many of the players took some hard hits and fell to the ground, only to get back up and keep pushing through.

“(The Trojan players) were good, they kept up a fight, and we just happened to come out on top,” said John Ayers Jr.

Both of the teams are relatively young, and with a little more playing time and experience, they should improve.



Tairi Battig, Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai forward, presents a 3-point shot while the Camp Zama High School Trojans’ player attempts to block the shot during a regular season basketball game in the M. C. Perry High School gym here Saturday. The Samurai and the Trojans were neck and neck throughout most of the game until the Samurai stole the rock on the Trojans’ final possession, preventing a final shot attempt and any possibility for overtime.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Manhattan clamchowder, chicken and rice soup, sauerbraten, jerked-style chicken, fried rice, oven-browned potatoes, french-fried okra, calico cabbage, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, confetti rice salad, standard salad bar, coconut raisin cookies, double-layer almond cake, chocolate cream pie with whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday
Beef noodle soup, navy bean soup, Swiss steak with gravy, Szechwan chicken, O’Brien potatoes, noodles Jefferson, french-fried cauliflower, broccoli parmesan, brown gravy, cheese biscuits, three-bean salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake with buttercream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday
Cream of broccoli soup, knickerbocker soup, turkey curry, Chinese five spice chicken, pork fried rice, mashed potatoes, vegetable stir fry, whole kernel corn, egg rolls, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, spring salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, sweet potato pie with whipped topping, coconut cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbecue

Thursday
Minstrone soup, pepper pot soup, fried chicken, beef stroganoff, buttered pasta, candied sweet potatoes, savory summer squash, Southern style green beans, chicken gravy, cheese biscuits, potato salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, double-layer devil’s food cake with coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie with whipped topping, oatmeal raisin cookies.
Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday
Beef barley soup, tomato soup, lemon baked fish, el rancho stew, steamed rice, potatoes au gratin, cauliflower combo, black-eyed peas, dinner rolls, brown gravy, mixed fruit salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, apple and cherry turnovers, bread pudding, crisp toffee bars, chocolate pudding with shipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Courtney Simmons, Sho Stoppaz center, works the Roc Boyz defense as teammate Rabosky Tanner, point guard, sets up for a 3-point shot to help widen the lead during the second half of the championship game of the Make The Dream Real basketball tournament at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday. The Sho Stoppaz dominated during the entire tournament and defeated the Roc Boyz 50-40 in the championship game.

Sho Stoppaz turn dream into nightmare for competition

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

The Sho Stoppaz beat out The Roc Boyz 50 – 40 during the Make The Dream Real basketball tournament at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday.

The fierce tournament started out as any ones guess as to who the winner would be, or so the audience thought with the Sho Stoppaz players getting their sixth consecutive championship.

The Sho Stoppaz dominated each of their competitors, starting with the IHOOPS, comprised of installation personnel administration center Marines, 52-28.

“(The IHOOPS) were a pretty tough team,” Darius Harpe, Sho Stoppaz coach said. “We adjusted our defense, and then we ended up winning by 20-plus points.”

The Sho Stoppaz then faced the Roc Boyz for the first time in the tournament.

Showing the Roc Boyz who owned the court, the Sho Stoppaz won 51-40.

“We always have to adjust our strategy,” Harpe said. “Different teams are going to come at you different ways. You have to be ready to switch

your defense and offense up and let the veteran leadership step up.”

The Roc Boyz got another chance to play against the Sho Stoppaz by beating Fil-Am 47-25 in the losers’ bracket playoffs.

It was a meeting of epic proportions when the Roc Boyz squared off against the Sho Stoppaz for a second time.

In the first 10 minutes of the game, the ball had shifted possession a large amount of times considering the low score.

The Roc Boyz pulled ahead 19-18 at the end of the first half.

The Sho Stoppaz players got the lead back when they stepped up their defense and played team ball.

“Some things weren’t going our way,” Fabyen Robinson, Sho Stoppaz center and MVP, said. “We just had to change up our strategy to get the win.”

With that game plan in mind, the Sho Stoppaz took a four-point lead halfway through the second half.

Rabosky Tanner, Sho Stoppaz point guard, awed the crowd by breaking down any one of the Roc Boyz players who tried to go toe to toe with him.

“He could drive to the hole and dish it or feed it to the big man or lay it up,” Harpe said of Tanner.

The Sho Stoppaz finished with a 10-point lead by the end of the second half 50-40, reiterating the point it made earlier in the tournament — the Sho Stoppaz do the stopping.

The Sho Stoppaz players just try to overwhelm and surprise their opponents to get as many buckets as they could, said Tanner.

“Once we get the rebound, everyone knows their roles,” Tanner said.

After the dust settled on the court and it was time to hand out the trophies, Harpe showed good sportsmanship by expressing how well the Roc Boyz played against his Sho Stoppaz.

“Congratulations to the Roc Boyz for making it to the championship game,” Harpe said. “My next announcement is that this is officially the end of the Sho Stoppaz. Somebody else can be the champion next time.”

With their coach disbanding their winning team, this win was bittersweet for the Sho Stoppaz players, but they went out as champions.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Fabyen Robinson, Sho Stoppaz point guard, goes for the hoop after breaking through the tough Roc Boyz defense to help win the championship during the Make The Dream Real basketball tournament at the IronWorks Gym sports courts Saturday. This championship marked the sixth tournament win for the Sho Stoppaz.