



Who let the dogs out?

Residents get involved for Train your Dog month | P. 5



O Killaz huh?

Officers take charge of enlisted vs officers game | P. 6,7



BUCKETS

Young athletes go shot for shot in ball game | P. 11

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 5 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

American students from Matthew C. Perry High School and Japanese students from Iwakuni Municipal Higashi Junior High School play their musical instruments together during the inaugural U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert Sunday at Iwakuni Sinfonia Concert Hall. The Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau hosted the event to foster and strengthen the relationship between the station and the surrounding community.

U.S. - Japan Friendship Concert bridges, unifies two cultures

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Years after traveling through several countries and observing different cultures, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a 19th Century American poet, wrote, "Music is the universal language of mankind."

Transcending linguistic barriers and cultural differences, approximately 80 American and Japanese students from Matthew C. Perry High School, Iwakuni Municipal Higashi Junior High School and Iwakuni Municipal Kawashimo Junior High School proved Longfellow's words true Sunday during the inaugural U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert in Iwakuni Sinfonia Concert Hall.

The Chugoku-Shikoku Defense

Bureau hosted the event to foster and strengthen the relationship between the station and the local community. The concert was supported by the air station, Yamaguchi Prefecture and Iwakuni City; and sponsored by the Defense Facilities Environments Improvement Association and the Japanese American Society.

Col. James C. Stewart, station commanding officer, came out in support of the concert.

"I am very proud of what these students have accomplished in this past month," said Stewart. "Their musical harmonies, in many ways, mirror and manifest the international harmony that exists between our two cultures. The pure harmony of friendship

SEE **CONCERT** ON PAGE 3

U.S., Thai forces join to improve multinational interoperability

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — Marines and sailors participating in Cobra Gold 2011 arrived at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, Jan. 27.

Marine Attack Squadron 211, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 and Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 are all taking part in the monthlong exercise.

The exercise is scheduled to begin Monday, but Marines and sailors arrived early to prepare for the mission.

As they arrived, they began setting up equipment, scheduling flight plans, situating missions and organizing units.

Cobra Gold is an annual exercise that demonstrates joint and multinational capabilities and improves interoperability between the United States and Thailand.

The joint/combined exercise is designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the Royal Thai Armed Forces defensive tactics

SEE **EXERCISE** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'The common thread of faith and vocation'

LT. J.G. BRUCE B. WEST
H&HS CHAPLAIN

A couple months ago, I was having coffee with a couple of cadets at the Citadel.

In a moment of bravado, one began to tell of the incredible, obscenely difficult discipline at his military prep school, and what he had experienced thus far at the Citadel was comparably easy. Not to be outdone, the other responded by recounting attending St. Anselm's, perhaps the most rigid of all religious schools, and said it was the best preparation anyone could receive before coming to the Citadel.

Who was right? Probably neither, but it was great for a laugh. In deeper reflection, I realized there are some very similar attributes in the character of people of faith and people in military service.

There are several qualities they seem to have in common.

First, there is an ultimate commitment. In Jesus' ministry, he called people to follow him and to learn from him. He asked them to make him their supreme love.

When pushed on the subject of how committed his followers should be, he replied their love for other people or other things should be so relatively incomparable that it would appear that they hated

those other things.

Likewise, those of us in the military make a supreme commitment. Why? It is because we recognize that the worthiness of that calling to service is so profound that we are willing to put that call first and foremost above everything else.

Commitment is an issue of making sacrifices for that which we value most highly.

The second character quality in common is discipline. People of faith know that living a life focused on God requires discipline and self denial in order to overcome our own natural tendencies and self interests. Discipline is intentional, requires effort, is sometimes temporarily painful but eventually produces a character that shines like gold.

Like people of faith, those of us in the military live lives of discipline. That is not just a life of physical discipline, but we also seek to develop our whole person. Honor, courage and commitment require self denial and the molding of our character.

Discipline is the quality that we use to develop ourselves morally, physically and spiritually when we recognize places in our life that need development or refinement.

A third common character quality that I have noticed is

service and camaraderie. I have seen this demonstrated going far beyond merely being willing to help a brother out.

Serving others means encouraging those around us, watching their back, confronting them when necessary, and ultimately being willing to put your life on the line for them.

Why does this type of camaraderie seem to go so much deeper than the typical relationships we have with those around us? Maybe it's because of the deep-rooted, mutual trust and commitment to a common cause.

There are other similar qualities. Things like allegiance, training, stewardship and submission. But what is the common thread? What do people of faith and those in military service have in common that breeds these similar qualities?

Perhaps it has something to do with the sense of calling? Maybe it is the deep sense of mission? Maybe it is recognition that the values we hold are larger than the individuals at stake.

In the end, it may be different for each of us, but regardless of the motive, as I observe the lives of those with whom I serve, I am proud. I am proud of your character and I am proud to serve with you.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA): File for 2011 taxes

Where: Building 608 at the Staff Judge Advocate's office

Hours of operation: Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

By appointment only: Saturdays in February (5, 12, 19, 26 only) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. by appointment only - Deadline: April 15th

For the past year, tax filers need to bring the following information at a minimum:

- Proof of a valid Social Security Number for both the tax filer and all dependants claimed on this year's tax return
- W-2 (wage and tax statement)

The following documents should be brought if applicable:

- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks earned on savings or checking accounts)
- Child care expenses
- Records reflecting spousal or child support payments
- Mortgage interest statement
- Individual retirement account (IRA) contributions
- Dividends, interest, capital gains and losses from the sale of stocks, bonds or property
- Charitable contribution records
- Electronic tax filers need to bring their savings or checking account routing number to have refunds electronically deposited

Any questions, please contact the Tax Center at 253-3540 or 253-4398.

Iwakuni Marines, sailors arrive in Thailand to participate in Cobra Gold 2011

EXERCISE FROM PAGE 1

and response measures.

While VMA-211 and VMFA(AW)-242 are performing flight operations, MAG-12, MALS-12 and MACS-4 will be supporting them from the ground.

Units from Okinawa, Japan, are joining the exercise to provide the ground combat element of the exercise as well.

"We're like one big working machine," said Lance Cpl. Samuel Roberto, an air traffic controller for MACS-4. "We all have to work together to make sure the mission gets accomplished."

The purpose of the

training is to show the U.S. forces' support to the Pacific region by working with the Thai military in order to maintain peace and stability in the region.

"We've had a long, good relationship with the Thai military, and every year it's great to come and work with the Thai to keep those friendships up and have the opportunity to work side-by-side with a foreign country and their military," said Lt. Col. Richard E. Petersen, VMFA(AW)-242 commanding officer.

Cobra Gold will focus on building operational readiness in tactics, equipment and logistical support for both U.S. and Thai forces.

"It is always good to be able to work with Marines," said Thai Air Force Sgt. Akkarat Paek, a logistical support specialist. "By working together, both the U.S. and Thai militaries learn from each other."

During the exercise, both countries plan to conduct close-air support and strike missions, as well as perform preflight planning, briefing and debriefing to produce joint after-action reports.

The Marines should gain a better understanding of the Thai culture by working in a combined atmosphere with a foreign country and coordinating flight operations of two different countries, Petersen said.



Allen Strawbridge, Matthew C. Perry High School music director, leads the M.C. Perry High School and Iwakuni Municipal Higashi Junior High School band during the inaugural U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert Sunday at the Iwakuni Sinfonia Concert Hall.



Yui Michishita, an Iwakuni Municipal Higashi Junior High School student plays the contra-bass during the inaugural U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert Sunday at the Iwakuni Sinfonia Concert Hall. The concert was hosted by the Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau to strengthen the relationship between the station and the surrounding community.

U.S. - Japan Friendship Concert bridges Japanese, American cultures

CONCERT FROM PAGE 1

and innocence rises above the den of geopolitical, economic and cultural strife that captures the headlines and attention of so many."

Stewart said he wanted the concert attendees to relax and enjoy the music while remembering the harmony that binds them together as the members of one community in the world.

Yoshihiko Fukuda, Iwakuni City mayor, was also present at the concert.

Fukuda said he believed any form of communication done in friendship between the station and the community was good.

"To practice for the concert, together, is a form of communication," said Fukuda. "I think good relationships will be built, as time goes by, through such communication."

Before the day of the concert, the Japanese and American students had joint practice sessions at each other's schools. Although they had difficulties in verbal communication, they were able to communicate well enough to play their music together.

Approximately 800 station and community members attended the concert. The students played music from composers such as John F. Wagner, Akiko Furu and Syoji Hashimoto. The concert reached its peak when all students came together to perform "Hey Jude" by The Beatles. The Iwakuni Kawashimo Junior High School baseball team helped with vocals for the song.

"I believe it's very significant that the Americans and Japanese are able to get together because it's a sign of friendship," said Alicia Saiki, an M.C. Perry High School junior student and concert musician. "Something small like this can build up into something greater."

Saiki said she hopes this won't be the last time a concert like this is done.

Before the students met for the concert, some of the students expressed feelings of apprehension.

"I was a little scared and uneasy about coming to the concert," said Kimura Kesuke, an Iwakuni Kawashimo Junior High School baseball player and a vocalist during "Hey Jude." "The Americans tend to be huge, and that kind of made me uneasy."

Kesuke said he's glad he came to the concert and had a great time making friends with the American students.

The Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau is planning to have more events in the future to strengthen the bonds between the station and local community.

Corporals Course: class 4-11

Honor graduate: Cpl. Michael Clemens

Iron man: Cpl. Brandon Dorsey

Gung Ho: Cpl. Cyndi Henn

Cpl. Carl Baker
Cpl. Matthew Bolthouse
Cpl. Seree Chang
Cpl. Gregory Civin
Cpl. Thomas Clark
Cpl. Nathaniel Detro
Cpl. Elliot Gruhn
Cpl. Erica Hatcher
Cpl. Cody Hill
Cpl. Kharl Ange Joseph
Cpl. James Lovett
Cpl. Roberto Meza Jr.
Cpl. William Phillips
Cpl. Michael Walt
Cpl. Princess Woodside

Marine Aircraft Group 12

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Combat Logistics Company 36

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

Combat Logistics Company 36

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

February Promotions

H&HS

Lance Cpl.

Baird, Krystal R.
Bell, Cody J.
Calton, Andrew J.
Cave, Jacob T.
Favorite, Taylor S.
Foutty, Nicholas A.
Healy, Mark D.
Hernandez, Pablo E.
Price, Faith A.
Ramirez, Ava D.
Sewell, Donald W.
Weaver, Crystal L.

Cpl.

Bartlett, Shaun M.
Harmon, Kevin J.
Javier, Jairo A.
Saroach, Christopher A.
Steed, Kasey O.
Vandermolen, Kyle S.

Sgt.

Colon, Immanuel R.
Langland, Cameron L.

Staff Sgt.

Whitecavage, Shaun M.

Gunnery Sgt.

Kropiewnicki, Michael K.

Master Gunnery Sgt.

Chambers, James C. (frocked)

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.

Bell, Chuck A.
Shinn, Craig J.
Swetlic, Dylan J.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.

Cienfuegosabbut, Robert B.
Daniels, Brittany D.
Delaria III, Donald R.
McOmber, Cassidy A.
Sanford Jr., Corey J.

Cpl.

Chavez, Nicholas R.

Sgt.

Chitwood, Andrew A.

Staff Sgt.

Argo III, Olen L.
Narea, Martha V.

Gunnery Sgt.

Coffman, Daniel G.

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.

Dilks, Logan W.
Mathisen, Michael S.
Maynard, Shawn A.
Munson IV, Harry A.

Cpl.

Armstrong, Chad R.
CurtisWittenberg, Paul
Fortier, Nicholas L.
Mason, Nicholas G.
McGowan, Matthew T.
Skerske, Paul M.
Trollo, Kayla S.

Detachment Bravo

Cpl.

Petsinger, James P.

MWSS-171

Pfc.

Thomaspeer, Schyler J.

Lance Cpl.

Barton, Patrick A.
Boitnott, Broc S.
Chun, Juyoung J.
Clark, Demargeo R.
Clark III, Elgin W.
Combellack, Jonathan J.
Fernandes, Raul F.
Griffiths, Marshall A.
Harrison III, James M.
Mejia, Jose L.
Schap, Anton J.
Seibert, Eric M.
Taylor, David Y.
Vazquez, Michelle I.
Wilson, David B.

Cpl.

Davies, Jessica M.
McGlone, Joshua A.
Record, Beau D.
Reyes, Andrew S.

Master Sgt.

Ruiz, Robert P.

Gunnery Sgt.

Slaughter, Phillip G.

MAG-12

Lance Cpl.

Malinowski, Tara A.

Cpl.

Weixler, Daniel O.

Train Your Dog Month comes to Iwakuni

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In support of National Train Your Dog Month, the Iwakuni branch veterinary services hosted a dog training class open to all station dog owners Jan. 25 in the park next to the Thrift Store here.

Last year, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers declared January as National Train Your Dog Month. All across the nation, APDT members conducted events to promote the benefits and importance of dog training.

"Forward training and teaching dogs to be good canine citizens fits in very nicely with my mission, which is to take care of the pets aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni," said Army Capt. Kimberly Yore, officer-in-charge of the Iwakuni branch veterinary services. "If I can help people learn how to best train their animals, then I'm strengthening their bond with their animals, and I'm making my job a lot easier."

Four station resident dog owners and their pets attended the class. They spent the afternoon learning the most effective and rewarding ways to train their four-legged companions.

"Reward-based training is great because it teaches owners how to request desirable behaviors from their dog rather than punishing unwanted behaviors," said Yore. "It really strengthens their bond with that pet. Punishment is not nearly as effective as reward-based training because you have to punish them every time they do something bad."

During the training, the participants were taught to reward their animals with treats or loving gestures whenever their dogs executed what was asked of them. The owners learned how to have their dogs sit, stay, lay down and how to perform other obedience training commands.

Army Sgt. April Johnson, animal care noncommissioned officer and Iwakuni branch veterinary services noncommissioned officer-in-charge, assisted Yore during the classes.

Johnson said having a pet well-trained eliminates safety concerns. "Gradually the owners work to get the animals to stay," said Johnson. "They will keep the animals still without something distracting them — say they open the door, it won't just skid out. It's kind of a safety concern."

Some of the dog owners who attended the training participated in past dog training courses. Many of them believed the classes not only trained their dogs to be more obedient, but also helped them build stronger bonds with their animals.

Station resident Meredith Czepiel attended the class with her 6-month-old golden retriever, Luke Grasswalker.

Czepiel said since she's started training her dog, she understands him a lot better and feels a lot closer to him.

"(With the training) I have gotten a lot more respect from my dog," said Czepiel. "He had a lot of respect for my husband, but for me, whatever I told him to do, he just didn't feel like it."

Her husband jokingly said she is the master now that the dog obeys her better than him, she added.

The Iwakuni branch veterinary services offers one-on-one behavioral consultations and training sessions throughout the year. Station residents can reach the veterinary clinic at 253-6714 for more information.

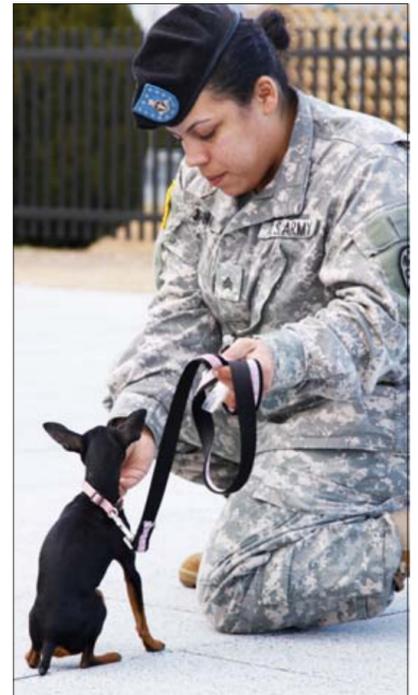
According to the APDT website, January was selected as the best month for National Train Your Dog Month because more dogs are adopted during the winter holidays than any other time during the year.



Army Capt. Kimberly Yore, officer-in-charge of the Iwakuni branch veterinary services, instructs dog owners during a dog training course hosted by the Iwakuni branch veterinary services at the park next to the Thrift Store here Jan. 25 in support of National Train Your Dog Month. Four station dog owners attended the training course along with dogs.



Army Capt. Kimberly Yore, officer-in-charge of the Iwakuni branch veterinary services, instructs Staci Byers on how to train her dog during a dog training course hosted by the Iwakuni branch veterinary services at the park next to the Thrift Store here Jan. 25 in support of National Train Your Dog Month. Station dog owners spent the afternoon learning the most effective and rewarding ways to train their four-legged companions.



Army Sgt. April Johnson, Iwakuni branch veterinary services noncommissioned officer-in-charge, rewards Bella, a 5-month-old miniature pinscher, for doing well during a dog training course hosted by the Iwakuni branch veterinary services at the park next to the Thrift Store here Jan. 25 in support of National Train Your Dog Month. During the class, reward-based training was taught as the most effective way to train a dog.



Dogs greet each other during a dog training course hosted by the Iwakuni branch veterinary services at the park next to the Thrift Store here Jan. 25 in support of National Train Your Dog Month.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Staff Sgt. Shane Hall, O Killaz lineman, makes a grab for Lt. Col. Michael Coletta, quarterback/coach, as Coletta looks down the field for an open receiver here Jan. 28 at Penny Lake field in the Officers versus Staff Noncommissioned Officers flag football game. The SNCOs were on the losing end of a 20-13 defeat by the officers as they attempted to go for an upset.



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Capt. James Leary, center, runs with the ball as players from the opposing team attempt to pull his flags during the Officers and Staff Noncommissioned Officers (SNCO) flag football game, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Jan. 28. Officers and SNCOs from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron held a flag football game to build camaraderie. The officers won with a score of 20-13.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

The O Killaz look on as Lt. Col. Bret Saunders, linebacker/tight end, walks the field sizing up his opponents at the start of the first half Jan. 28 here at Penny Lake field. The officers denied the O Killaz the win by way of touchdown pass to Capt. James Leary with less than two minutes left to play for a final score of 20-13.

Game time: Officers school SNCOs with no commission, 20-13

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

Officers of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron emerged victorious against their staff noncommissioned officer opponents, the O Killaz, 20-13, in a flag football matchup at Penny Lake field here Jan. 28.

Marines, sailors and family members gathered while the teams prepared to kickoff. The officers were easily outnumbered by the SNCOs, but they were no less tenacious than their counterparts.

"A lot of people didn't think we had a chance," said Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, coach/quarterback for the officers.

The two teams trash talked for a few minutes before the game. Spectators hollered and cheered as the teams took the field to start the game.

The O Killaz were the first to receive the ball. Their starting quarterback/coach, Master Sgt. Rodney "Top B" Buentello, stayed on the move as the officers blitzed on the O Killaz's first possession.

The O Killaz's running game on the very first drive was their strong point as they stormed down the field with help from Petty Officer 1st Class Kemp "Dre" Dreher, running back. The O Killaz were stopped short of the goal line and were forced to turn the ball over on downs.

The officers proved they were just as much a threat by fighting forward in bruising fashion for a first down. However, a couple of plays later, Coletta was picked off by Staff Sgt. Curtis "K-Train" Kelling, defensive lineman for the O Killaz.

The O Killaz weren't able to do much with the ball and on their next possession, the

officers were the first to put points on the board.

The first scoring drive for the officers was fueled by the flashy display of the team's two speedsters, 2nd Lt. Jorge Hernandez, cornerback/tight end, and Capt. James Leary, linebacker/running back.

Hernandez's quick fluid movement on the drive led to a first down by way of a pass. Leary sealed the drive by making a leaping catch in the end zone.

Not wanting to be outdone, the O Killaz once again attempted to get on the scoreboard before the first half was over. They went to the air, this time using Dreher and Gunnery Sgt. Troy "DBL DWN" Ruby, center, but were stopped short.

The officers closed out the half in the lead 7-0.

The officers were the first to take the field at the start of the second half. They moved the ball forward on a sweeping reverse before being intercepted by Staff Sgt. Michael "K" Kropiewnicki, linebacker.

New life was breathed into the O Killaz with the pick, as they once again went to their reliable short passing game by way of Master Sgt. Corey "Smoke" Croom, wide receiver; however, it was Buentello who punched in the first touchdown on that drive for the O Killaz.

The officers responded in kind by mixing in their air attack with a reliable ground game. "Our game plan was devised so that we put our strengths against their weaknesses," said Coletta. "I never doubted we would win."

After whittling away at the O Killaz defense with short routes, Coletta threw down the field to set up for a first down. They once again went to Leary for the touchdown on the

drive.

The O Killaz brought the game to a one point difference in the middle of the second half as they used Croom to rumble down the field, setting them up for a pass to Master Sgt. James "Mitch" Mitchell, wide receiver, for the touchdown with the officers still leading 14-13.

The officers scored once again two series later with a little under two minutes left, bringing the score to 20-13 by way of a pass.

The O Killaz tried one last time to score on their next drive but were denied.

The officers ran out the clock with time winding down to seal the victory.

Looking back on the game, Buentello said the team could have been more physical at certain points. But in the end, regardless of the outcome it was good to get out and compete.

"It doesn't matter if it's thumb wrestling," said Buentello. "We just wanted to compete."

Some of the players were seen smiling as they walked past one another in the obligatory "good game" handshake.

Even though both teams believed they would win, the officers, this day, proved they were the better team. Some of the officers joked about the win.

Coletta also said if there are any other groups who wish to challenge the officers, for example, the E-3s and below or the NCOs, to "bring it on."

Leary said making time for the practices and making sure the officers were on the same page is what led to their victory.

Regardless of the game's outcome, both teams came not only to win, but to have fun as well and to give the spectators a good game.



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Marines and sailors congratulate each other after the Officers and Staff Noncommissioned Officers (SNCO) flag football game at Penny Lake field here Jan. 28. Officers and SNCOs from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron held a flag football game to build camaraderie. Although the odds were against the officers, they won with a score of 20-13.



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Master Sgt. Corey Croom runs with the ball to score a touchdown during the Officers and Staff Noncommissioned Officers (SNCO) flag football game, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Jan. 28. The officers, although outnumbered, won the game with a score of 20-13.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. DEANNE HURLA

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Pfc. Alejandro Uribarri, an air delivery specialist with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), connects a parachute to the static line, which will automatically deploy the parachute when it is released off of a KC-130J. Marines of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Detachment A, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), completed a section aerial delivery drop to Marines of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. A section aerial delivery is comprised of two aircraft making a supply drop. Bundles used during the drop are created using thick cardboard pallets and boxes of water, food or ammunition. Parachutes are then attached to the top of the bundles and rigged for automatic deployment as they leave the aircraft during flight. It took the Marines about two hours, from preparing the aircraft to releasing the bundles, to successfully complete the mission. Through teamwork, the VMGR-352, Det. A. Marines continually support coalition forces on the front lines and in isolated locations by delivering the supplies they need in the quickest manner possible.

Hercules rain supplies during aerial delivery

SGT. DEANNE HURLA
3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — When coalition forces on the ground can't afford to wait for a convoy or are out of reach for a helicopter resupply, the KC-130J provides the flexibility and capability of making a mass aerial delivery to the front lines.

The Marines of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Detachment A, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), completes section aerial deliveries to ground forces in Helmand province regularly. A section aerial delivery is comprised of two aircraft making a supply drop.

"Aerial delivery is an essential mission set of the KC-130J," said Capt. Ben Grant, the operations officer with VMGR-352, Det. A. "Each aircraft delivered an excess of 26,000 pounds of food and water to the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, in southern Helmand province. That's a total of 26 tons in less than an hour's total flight time."

Aerial delivery is an incredibly dynamic mission that directly supports the ground forces, explained Staff Sgt. Nate Deitsch, a KC-130J Hercules crew chief with the

squadron.

For an aerial delivery, bundles are created using thick cardboard pallets and boxes of water, food or ammunition. Parachutes are then attached to the top of the bundles and rigged for automatic deployment as they leave the aircraft during flight.

"We are the only fixed-wing platform organic to the [Marine Air Ground Task Force] that is capable of delivering this amount of essential supplies in a single pass to the Marines on the ground, making us a significant combat multiplier for the MAGTF commander," said Grant. "In doing so, we can quickly deliver all classes of needed materials to remote outposts on short notice."

Before the VMGR-352, Det. A, Marines can make this quick delivery, they must prepare the aircraft to properly release the cargo.

In an airdrop mission, special attention must be paid to the aircraft's cargo loading system due to the relatively high danger involved with dropping thousands of pounds of cargo from a moving aircraft, explained Cpl. Joshua Palmer, a loadmaster with VMGR-352, Det. A.

The loadmasters must check each bundle as it is loaded to ensure it is properly secured, and that the parachute is correctly connected to release once it is clear of the ramp. The

bundles may be released either manually, by the loadmaster cutting the release gate or automatically by a specially rigged, aircraft controlled, guillotine knife.

During the flight, the loadmaster walks the cargo compartment to check the integrity of each load and prepares the cargo compartment for the actual release, Palmer explained.

"This flight went very well; the bundles exited safely and without flaw, arriving at their intended drop-zone and providing the forces on the ground with supplies," said Palmer. "To me, that is what counts. To enable the Marines in remote and often inaccessible positions to safely receive amenities and supplies that many take for granted."

It took the Marines about two hours, from preparing the aircraft to releasing the bundles, to successfully complete the mission.

"We are a cohesive team that can accomplish any mission - anywhere, any weather, anytime - in support of our Marines on the ground," said Grant.

Through this teamwork, the VMGR-352, Det. A, Marines continually support coalition forces on the front lines and in isolated locations by delivering the supplies they need in the quickest manner possible.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

CREDO Marriage Retreat

The upcoming Chaplains Religious Enrichment Program marriage retreat is scheduled March 18 - 20 here. Couples will learn to communicate effectively and work as a team. All station service members and their spouses are eligible to attend. Couples must be married for at least one year, and marriage should not be in a state of crisis. Registration with command approval should be completed at the Marine Memorial Chapel by March 1. For more information, call 253-3834.

Free Child Development Screening

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will be holding a free child development screening for children 4-60 months on Feb. 23 and 24 at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School. A child specialist will answer questions and screen five major areas of child development. For more information, schedule an appointment with EDIS at 253-4562.

Mothers of Preschoolers Volunteer Opportunities

MOPS is looking for volunteers to work with our MOPPETS ages 0-5 years old. MOPPETS is

the children's program for MOPS. If you enjoy working with children and would like to help, contact Michele at 253-2031.

Station Tax Center

The Station Tax Center, located in Building 608 (SJA side), is scheduled to be open Mondays through Fridays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Tax Center is currently taking appointments for every Saturday in the month of February. To make an appointment or for more information, call 253-5951, 253-3540, 253-5591, 253-5962.

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. Wednesday and Thursday. 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.

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 any essays must be turned in to the Commissary by close of business Feb. 22. For more information, call the DeCA department at 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 store now - Feb. 24. For more information, e-mail IwakuniGS@gmail.com.

Contractors in Housing Areas

Contractors are scheduled to be working in the north town homes area 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays - Fridays until the end of February. They may need to access some back yards, front yards and outdoor walls. For any questions or concerns, call Sgt. Adam Kruse 253-4018.

Vehicles

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 Sean at seangkimhan@hotmail.com.

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 seangkimhan@hotmail.com.

Jobs

Americable International Positions

Americable International Japan Inc. is now accepting applications for office manager, customer service representative, CATV/Internet installer and installer technician positions here. For more information visit www.americablejapan.com for more information. Applications and resumes may be sent to resume@americablejapan.com.

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. Knowledge of government travel regulations, SABRE CRS, travel agency or airline experience is

recommended. Please send all inquiries and resumes to mkenat@cwtsatotravel.com. No phone inquiries please.

Miscellaneous

Maytag Washing Machine

Owned by one person. Large capacity, quiet-pack, heavy duty, seven-cycle washing machine. Purchased in 2003. Very good condition. Must sell by Feb. 6. Asking \$75 OBO. For more information, please call 253-2861 or 080-3311-4777.

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 desired information. Alternatively, submit your brief or classified ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process. 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.

Nurse's Notes

The Branch Dental Clinic will be visiting elementary classrooms in February with an oral health presentation. These tips will help you reinforce your child's learning.

February is *National Children's Dental Health Month!*

Here are some tips to help your child develop good dental habits:

- Encourage your children to brush their teeth for two full minutes at least two times per day.
- After brushing, children should also floss their teeth two times per day.
- Limit the amount of sugared drinks and carbohydrates children ingest daily.
- Schedule a dental exam and cleaning for children two times per year.
- Discourage children from chewing on pencils or other hard objects that could damage a tooth.

For more information about dental cleanliness or to schedule an appointment for a dental exam, call the Iwakuni Dental Clinic at 253-3331.

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
 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.

Photo of the week



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Two locals stroll by the Kintai Bridge in downtown Iwakuni during the spring season last year. 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, February 4, 2011
 7 p.m. The Green Hornet (PG-13)
 Premier
 10 p.m. Love and Other Drugs (R)

Saturday, February 5, 2011
 1 p.m. Tangled (PG)
 4 p.m. Yogi Bear (PG)
 7 p.m. How Do You Know (PG-13)

Sunday, February 6, 2011
 1 p.m. Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of The Dawn Treader (PG)
 4 p.m. The Green Hornet (PG-13)
 7 p.m. How Do You Know (PG-13)

Monday, February 7, 2011
 7 p.m. The Next 3 Days (PG-13)

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
 7 p.m. How Do you Know (PG-13)

Wednesday, February 9, 2011
 7 p.m. Burlesque (PG-13)

Thursday, February 10, 2011
 7 p.m. The Green Hornet (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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
 Manhattan clam chowder, 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

Lightning, fireballs fly in youth match up

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

It was an all out battle between the Blue Bolts and the Heat in a 5- to 6-year-old division youth basketball season game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 27.

The two teams scrambled, ducked, dived and occasionally dribbled as they raced from one hoop to the other.

The Blue Bolts showed great teamwork passing the ball as the players ran down the court. The Heat responded with different tactics, stealing the ball and putting up a lot of shots throughout the game.

The players made the game a war of the ages. The court served as their battlefield. The players shouted like warriors, but with the unorganized running all over the court, the children seemed to make the event a lighthearted scramble to shoot the ball.

Tony Tann, 6, Heat power forward, was able to make a few buckets before the other players could catch up to him.

"It was a lot of fun," Tann said. "We all went after the ball." The game proved a learning experience for the coaches as well as the players.

"The game, went well but it was a little chaotic because they're only 5 and 6," said Eric Chrostowski, Blue Bolts' head coach. "We'll be more organized after our next practice Monday."

The practices will help both teams regroup and redo their strate-

gies.
 "The practices are going to be a lot more passing," William H. Smith, Heat head coach, said. "Obviously, the kids like to run with the ball and they all want to score, but we're going to focus on passing and dribbling the ball."

The way the practices are set up, teamwork seems to be the name of the game for these coaches. As the season progresses, the players will become closer and learn to share the ball.

"We're going to practice more drills," Chrostowski said. "They are good with shooting the ball but need more help passing."

The crowd jumped up whenever the players shot the ball and yelled words of encouragement as the children ran back and forth. The staff, who were there to help, smiled and laughed at the young players trying to dribble and run at the same time.

"They had fun out here running around. That's the main idea we had for them," said Mark Lopez, the assistant youth sports coordinator.

The youth sports are a conduit for the coaches and staff to teach the young players.

"We're basically trying to instill the fundamentals of the game for them," Lopez said. "When they get older, they'll already know what they should be doing on the court."

With that thought in mind, the season should progress as well as the player's knowledge and teamwork.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Ronald Percy, Blue Bolts power forward, launches the ball over the heads of Tytiana McCourt, Heat point guard, and her teammates during the Blue Bolts vs. Heat game in the 5- to 6-year-old division at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts here Jan. 27.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Damiun Chartigny, Blue Bolts point guard, masterfully steals the ball from Cameron Mardis, Heat center, during the Blue Bolts vs. Heat game in the 5- to 6-year-old division at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts here Jan. 27. The young players showed exceptional skill on the court.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Tony Tann, Heat power forward, and Caleb Pigge, Heat small forward, warm up before the Blue Bolts vs. Heat game in the 5- to 6-year-old division at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts here Jan. 27. The Heat practices will lean toward teamwork for the players.

Youth Basketball season game results

10- to 12- year-old division

Spurs vs. Celtics: Spurs 21 - 18

Spurs vs. Bulls: Spurs 23 - 20

Celtics vs. Magic: Magic 25 - 6

13- to 15- year-old division

Celtics vs. Lakers: Celtics 21 - 18

Bucks vs. Soldiers: Bucks 23 - 20

The 8th Asian Antiques and Furniture Auction

sponsored by

The Officers and Spouses' Club

Sunday, Feb 6th, 2011

Club Iwakuni Ballroom

Preview / Silent Auction 1:00 p.m. - Live Auction 2:00 p.m.

Over 300 items including:

Antique Furniture from Asia and Tibet,
Decorated Porcelain, Lamps,
Hand tied Rugs, Clocks, Carved Jade,
Mirrors, Paintings, Nautical collection,
Crystal, Screens, Cloisonne plus
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“Fantastic buys !”

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For More information pls call

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and

Toni Denton @ trdenton00@yahoo.com