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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 6 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

KORAT, Royal Kingdom of Thailand — Lance Cpl. Skylar Harris, an air control electronics operator for Marine Air Control Squadron 4, dances with an elderly man at the Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged Feb. 12 during a community relations project for Cobra Gold 2011.

SEE **ELDER** ON PAGE 3

Community relations project reaches out to elderly men, women

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT, Royal Kingdom of Thailand, — Marines and sailors participating in Cobra Gold 2011 visited Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged Feb. 12 as part of a community relations project through the chaplains office.

Approximately 20 Marines and sailors went to Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged for the 10th community relations project of Cobra Gold 2011.

Cobra Gold is a regularly scheduled joint/combined exercise in the continuing series of U.S./Thai military exercises designed to ensure regional peace.

Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged has been the home to elderly people throughout Thailand for almost 50 years.

The program now provides shelter,

Marine Air Control Squadron 4 air traffic controllers support Cobra Gold 2011

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni-based air traffic controllers are helping to keep U.S. and Thai aircraft flying safely.

Detachment B, Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Iwakuni, Japan, is currently deployed to Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, in support of Cobra Gold 2011.

Cobra Gold 2011 is a regularly scheduled joint and combined exercise in the continuing series of U.S.-Thai military exercises designed to ensure regional peace by strengthening the bonds between the seven participating nations: Thailand, Republic of Singapore,

Japan, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and the U.S. The multi-national operation includes a staff exercise, field training exercise events and humanitarian civic assistance programs.

While deployed to Thailand, the detachment's purpose is to provide air surveillance and control aircraft and surface-to-air weapons for anti-air warfare, continuous all-weather radar and non-radar air traffic control service and air space management.

"We work with the Thai to safely communicate with aircraft from Iwakuni, Okinawa and Thailand," said Capt. Dominic Kimzey, the detachment commander.

The relationship the detachment has with Marine Aircraft Group 12 provides them with the ability to

SEE **CONTROLLER** ON PAGE 3

Cavities run scared from dental health awareness

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School students went on a tour of the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic, and dental department staff visited the school Feb. 8 and 9.

The visits are happening all month long and are in connection with the National Children's Dental Health Month, which is all of February.

"Children get a lot of cavities," said Lt. Michael Hogan, a 3rd Dental Battalion, 11th Dental Company Detachment, Branch Health Clinic dental officer. "We raise awareness and show them what to do because a 5 or 6 year old may not be able to look on the Internet for dental help."


For many children, this was their first visit to the dental clinic.

"The main goal is to expose them to the dental clinic just to become familiar with sitting in the chair, having someone look inside their mouth, to not get them scared, and for them to realize that dentists are their friends," Hogan said.

Hogan, along with Navy Capt. Elizabeth Gaskin, the 3rd Dental Battalion, 11th Dental Company Detachment BHC officer-in-charge, gave M.C. Perry Elementary School students a tour at the BHC Feb. 8.

"Part of this tour was to orient them to the dental clinic,

SEE **SIMULATION** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Teamwork’

Lt. Robert E. Mills
STATION CHAPLAIN

A few days ago, I had the privilege of cheering for the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron officers while they thoroughly defeated the hapless staff noncommissioned officers in a freezing, grueling game of football out at Penny Lake Field. I didn’t play because if I had played for the officers, they certainly would have lost – and lost big! As I watched and shivered, I was really impressed with the many different “looks” that the “O”s’ offense gave to the SNCOs defense.

They really mixed it up, and the SNCOs never knew what the next play would bring. It was truly a case of age, deceit, and guile trumping speed, athletic ability and effort.

There was great teamwork with everybody contributing and getting a chance to make a big play. I was impressed by the game and had a lot of fun being there.

Although it was really quite cold out there, and there was a chilly wind blowing, everybody had a great time and there were

no serious injuries. But it was not the teamwork on the field that impressed me the most that day.

After the game was over, the older guys all took their Ibuprofen, and we all met at the club for a professional military education class.

Although the PME started out with some smack talking back and forth about the game, the SNCOs and the officers then sat down with each other, and for the next hour, listened while Lt. Col. Saunders talked to all of us about one of the battles in Navy/Marine Corps history. From being two teams a few minutes before, and engaging in near mortal combat on the gridiron, we all went back to one team – this time learning lessons from our mutual history and looking together toward the future. As I looked out over the officers and SNCOs in our PME after the football game, all I saw were a lot of people in green uniforms - good people who were all contributing to the mission here.

That is one of the things that I love most about the people of Iwakuni. Although we come from many different backgrounds and have many different skills, we are all part of one team.

Just like Lt. Col. Coletta was

the quarterback for the officers football team and called the plays that afternoon, he could not have won the game all by himself.

It took everybody pulling together to get the job done. Likewise, we all contribute to the mission here at MCAS Iwakuni.

That day out at Penny Lake, each player had his own set of skills that he brought to the team. Without the center, the quarterback would never have gotten his hands on the ball to make the great plays. It is the same with all of us. Without those who cook food, we all would starve. Without the maintainers, plane captains and pilots, the Hornets, Harriers and C-12s would not fly; without the Air Traffic Control Specialists, they certainly would not fly safely; without the logistical specialists, they wouldn’t have the fuel to fly. Without the RPs, the chaplains could not serve. Without the teachers, our kids would not learn. Without the MCCS employees, we all would be bored, and so on.

We are all incredibly important members of the team – no matter what we do here.

Thanks for being a member of the MCAS Iwakuni team. May God richly bless all of you!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

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

***** Today is only for single Marines and sailors*****

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

To ensure a prompt refund, file as early as possible.

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



Interested in becoming a DJ?

You could rock the club and enjoy all the night time parties that Club Iwakuni has to offer! If you are interested in becoming a DJ, call MCCS Productions at 253-3727 for details.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Nitzschke, a 3rd Dental Battalion, 11th Dental Company Detachment BHC corpsman, uses a puppet dinosaur to teach Matthew C. Perry kindergarten students the importance of brushing while Markis Burchett, an M.C. Perry kindergartener, brushes his teeth during a dental staff visit to M.C. Perry elementary school, Feb. 9, to raise awareness for National Children’s Dental health month.

DENTAL FROM PAGE 1

what kinds of things are found in the clinic and how they can help you,” Gaskin said.

The dental clinic tours were only the tip of the iceberg. Lt. Edward Wikle, a 3rd Dental Battalion, 11th Dental Company Detachment, BHC dental officer, along with Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan M. Nowell, a 3rd Dental Battalion, 11th Dental Company Detachment, BHC corpsman, went to visit the students in a M.C. Perry kindergarten class Feb. 9.

“We explain to the students the importance of dental health and how

they can take control of their own dental health,” Nowell said. “We also pass out dental coloring books, stickers, toothbrushes and toothpaste.”

Armed with knowledge on how to keep teeth clean and a dinosaur puppet used to show the children proper brushing techniques, Wikle and Nowell engaged the students in a hands-on demonstration.

“The dinosaur was really funny,” Markis Burchett, an M.C. Perry kindergartener, said. “I brushed his back teeth because that’s where sugar bugs like to live.”

The National Children’s Dental Health Month message that raises awareness for clean and bright teeth was delivered by the BHC dentists.

MACS 4 supports Cobra Gold 2011

CONTROLLER FROM PAGE 1

assist in exercises such as Cobra Gold, because while there are air traffic controllers attached to the station in Iwakuni, Detachment B is the deployable side of air traffic control.

The detachment has five sections that contribute to air traffic control services to keep aircraft in the air.

The operations section covers everything required to conduct day-to-day operations and training exercises.

The radar shop ensures radars are up and running.

“When we’re in garrison, we rotate operations with the station and do a lot of preventative maintenance,” said Sgt. Antonio Villalobos, an air traffic control radar technician. “But when we’re deployed is really the only time we get to see all of our gear fully operational.”

Villalobos added, while deployed the radar technicians get more hands-on experience with the equipment than they would in Iwakuni.

The detachment also has a communications section, which keeps all assets ready for use, so air traffic controllers have the ability to communicate with aircraft and other agencies; a navigation section that puts out distance signals, which allows aircraft to navigate to and from fields; and a utilities shop that maintains equipment such as

generators and air conditioners.

With only about 60 Marines in the detachment, every Marine’s efforts is important to make sure the mission is accomplished, said Lance Cpl. Wade Armstrong, a MAG-12 aviation supply specialist.

“We rely on each other a lot,” said Armstrong. “If one shop can’t do their job, none of us can.”

The detachment also provides weather center support to Korat and all other locations with aircraft while deployed to Thailand.

The weather center provides aircraft with meteorological and oceanographic conditions that may be encountered and the impact they may have on military operations during the exercise.

“A lot of people think our job consists of going on the Internet and looking at weather.com to give a weather forecast,” said Chief Warrant Officer Duane Gumbs, the detachment’s METOC officer.

“But there’s a lot more to it than that. A pilot could ask, ‘What are the winds going to be like at 1,500 feet at 7 p.m.?,’ and we have to be able to answer those questions.”

Gumbs also added that it’s important Detachment B Marines have the chance to be deployed here to show they are capable of operating in an expeditionary environment and also to work with other agencies with whom they wouldn’t normally interact.

Marines, sailors provide help, love to local Thai community

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food and medical treatment to more than 100 residents at no cost.

“The program is funded by the government for people over 60 years old,” said Bunleam Tuewsuantnong, the program director.

“They have no one to look after them, and the government sees that elderly people need support.”

Marines and sailors brightened the day of many elderly men and women by having conversations with them, singing and dancing.

Many of the service members also prayed with individual residents who asked for prayer.

To show their support to the Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged, the chaplains office

donated numerous boxes of men and women’s clothing, shoes, house ware and hygiene products.

“It was a great experience,” said Lance Cpl. Stephen Marts, a refrigeration mechanic for Marine Air Control Squadron 4. “It’s good to see that even in other countries people are still willing to help those in need.”

After serving lunch to the residents, Marines and sailors refurbished some of the physical therapy equipment and did some grounds maintenance to liven up the appearance of the Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged.

“We really appreciate what the Marines and sailors are doing,” said Tuewsuantnong. “Just coming here to pray and spend

time with them was more than enough.”

After spending only a few hours with one another, many of the residents, Marines and sailors were sad to say goodbye.

Chief Petty Officer Amalia Rodriguez, a religious program specialist for Marine Aircraft Group 12, told the Marines and sailors, “It might not mean a lot to you, but it means a whole lot to them.

In the future, we’re going to be in their shoes, and I would really appreciate it if some Marine or sailor did the same for me.”

By taking a couple hours out of their Saturday morning, these Marines and sailors made a difference by warming the hearts of people who may not have sons, daughters or grandchildren to do the same.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Cpl. Jairo Javier, station assistant Special Reaction Team leader, clears a room with his team during a hostage scenario at Building 906 here Feb. 10. The team ran through a variety of scenarios during the day's training that covered situations where team members were shot down or unexpected changes in intelligence happened.

Special Reaction Team provide blanket of security for station

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Another quiet night descends on Iwakuni. A station Provost Marshal's Office vehicle slowly patrols the streets of family housing. Station residents sleep peacefully in their beds and children, heavy eyed and yawning, cuddle up next to their parents as the PMO vehicle passes by their window.

Without warning, the sound of gunshots ring out through the streets breaking the silence of the night. Startled and confused, the military police officer wildly looks around and sees a window light up with gunfire as two more shots ring out within a house a few yards down. The screams of a hysterical woman fill the house as the military police officer races over.

The situation: a man walks in on his wife cheating on him. He shoots the lover dead and holds his wife hostage in the master bedroom. The military police officer calls for backup and is told to wait for the station's Special Reaction Team to come on scene.

The SRT is assembled and reaches the site within minutes. After being briefed on the situation, they consider their options and agree on a plan of action. The house stands in front of them surrounded by an eerie silence.

They approach their objective with caution. Within seconds, the team kicks the door down and pours in through the front door. In moments, the team clears the house and approach the master bedroom. The husband yells and curses the team and threatens to kill his sobbing wife.

Exhausting all options, two SRT members glide into the room and are shot dead by the

husband. A third member follows behind his fallen comrades, takes aim and kills the shooter.

These are the type of scenarios the station's SRT covered during a training session at Building 906 here Feb. 10.

Approximately six SRT members participated in the training that covered procedures in room clearing and suspect handling.

"This training is beneficial to the team because this is most likely what they are going to have to do when a situation falls on them," said Staff. Sgt. Bryce Good, the SRT commander. "They are going to have to move together as a unit. They are going to have to learn each other's mannerisms. They are going to have to flow as one."

SRT is a specialized element within military law enforcement called on to respond to any high risk situations aboard a military base or compound. The team's equivalent is the civilian police department's special weapons and tactics team, or SWAT team.

All SRT members are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. SRT members are all PMO Marines. SRT members are required to have a minimum sharpshooter pistol qualification and an expert rifle qualification. Members are also required to have a first class score in both the physical fitness test and combat fitness test.

"They all went through a vigorous process to be on this team," said Good. "They all wanted it. I hand selected all of them. They're motivated and they want to be here, and because of that, it's probably the best team I've ever worked with."

The team ran through a variety of scenarios during the day's training that covered situations in which team members were shot down or unexpected changes



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Michael Gallo, a station Special Reaction Team point man, stands ready to act during a training scenario at Building 906 here Feb. 10. The training allowed the team members to learn each other's movements and enhance their ability to work together.

in intelligence happened. The team members were expected to respond smoothly with minimal casualties.

"This training is really good for all the guys to train together and get a feel of working together," said Lance Cpl. Michael Gallo, a point man for the SRT. "You can (sit) in classes all you want learning about how to clear rooms, but when you actually get out here and do it, you really get a good sense of all that comes with a mission."

The SRT members are new and are just starting to work together.

Gallo said the hardest part of the day's training was learning each other's mannerisms and meshing together as a team. He added, once that was done, he felt everything ran smoothly.

Every member of the team found something challenging to overcome during the training.

"It's challenging to maintain all your adrenalin levels," said Cpl. Jairo Javier, assistant SRT leader. "As soon as you jump in, you have a million things running through your mind at the same time, so it's easy to forget all the things that you've been told. That's why this training is so important, because it becomes muscle memory, and you don't have to think about it. It just comes to you instantly."

Javier said he believes it's im-



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Two station Special Reaction Team members draw their weapons on Lance Cpl. Kassie McDole, a station combat videographer, as she holds Lance Cpl. Cody Bell, a military working dog handler, hostage during an SRT training scenario at Building 906 here Feb. 10. The training covered procedures in room clearing and suspect handling.

M.C. Perry students celebrate homecoming week, show school spirit

PFC. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Homecoming week was celebrated by the students of Matthew C. Perry High School here last week.

Homecoming was a week of events that kept the students in school spirits.

The events included a P90X assembly, Powderpuff football games, early releases, float decorating, hallway decorating, Ring-of-Fire Pit Festival, pep rally, parade, basketball games, and spirit days.

Each grade had a theme for the week and decorated school hallways and floats accordingly.

They each also had a specific category to dress up for spirit days: Monday was class colors, Tuesday was decades, Wednesday was generation, Thursday was crazy hair and school colors, and Friday was their respective themes for the week.

Monday, the students headed to the gym in their class colors for the P90X assembly where Tony Horton talked to the students about health and staying fit.

On Tuesday, the students dressed up in their designated decade and headed out to the M.C. Perry soccer field here to attend the Powderpuff football tournament.

The girls of M.C. Perry High School had a team for each grade. While all the girls played hard, there could only be one team who would be called the Powderpuff champions. This year, that team happened to be the senior girls.

Next, on Wednesday, the students were released early after they showed their school spirit by dressing up to represent different generations.

While some students went home after being released, others stayed to decorate their designated hallways and parade floats.

Thursday, several students attended the Ring-of-Fire Pit Festival.

There were six fire pits where Marines, sailors, parents, teachers and students gathered and enjoyed the warmth of the flames.

Friday, by far, had the most events. The students dressed up in their theme for the week, attended a pep rally, participated in a parade and attended basketball games.

During the pep rally, the students showed their school pride through competitions between each grade. Competitions included a hula hoop contest and a basketball shootout.

"I think the students were having a lot of fun," said Rebekah Kirsch, M.C. Perry High School student council sponsor. "They were showing their spirit throughout the week."

Shortly after the pep rally, the students headed to the front of the school where their floats had been brought out and lined up for the parade.

After the parade finished its course around the block, the students headed home to wait for the start of the Homecoming basketball games.

Later, the boys and girls basketball teams played the Homecoming games at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here.

"The week has been going great," said Kirsch. "Tonight are the games and we will announce the Homecoming court at halftime of the boys game."

Finally, to top off the week, the Homecoming dance was supposed to be held at the Iwakuni Club ballroom Saturday evening.

Although the weather proved to be a challenge and the dance postponed, some of the students still had a good time with the Genesis Lodge #89 at the Hasu Tower here.

The Genesis Lodge #89 supplied food and a place to hang out for the visiting basketball players and the M.C. Perry students.

"It is fun," said Carmela Lucey, an Ernest J. King High School student who attended the get together. "We need to get together and find out about the other people."

After the Homecoming dance was postponed, the visitors had no food due to the weather conditions that day. When the members of Genesis Lodge #89 heard of this, they sent out the invite for the young men and women to join them.

Because of the postponement of the dance, the Homecoming dance is scheduled to be held today.



PFC. CAYCE NEVERS

Matthew C. Perry High School cheerleaders perform a school-spirit cheer routine during the M.C. Perry homecoming pep-rally at the M.C. Perry gymnasium here Feb 11.



PFC. CAYCE NEVERS

Allen Strawbridge, Matthew C. Perry High School music director, leads M.C. Perry band students down the Iwakuni streets during the M.C. Perry homecoming parade here Feb. 11. After the parade finished, the students headed home to wait for the start of the Homecoming basketball games.

Man vs. wild Iwakunized

BASH team presses on despite daunting challenge

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

U.S. Airways passenger Flight 1549 took off at approximately 3:25 p.m. on Jan. 15, 2009. About 6 minutes later, the aircraft landed in the Hudson River.

Ever since humans have taken to the sky, they have not been alone. Orville Wright probably high-fived a cardinal, North Carolina's state bird, during his first flight. In fact, research suggests Wright documented one of, if not the first, aircraft bird strike while performing a test flight in 1905.

Of course, Orville would have only been traveling about 35 miles per hour.

Fast-forward to today: even small planes like Cessna's take off at nearly double the top speeds recorded by the Wright brothers.

As delicate as the Wright Flyers may have been, an F/A-18 Hornet travelling at Mach 1, approximately 761 miles per hour, colliding with a bird becomes an entirely new aerobatic ballgame.

The Department of Defense reports more than \$75 million annually in damages caused by bird strikes.

Thus, civilian airports and military air stations all over the world have a Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard Program; Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is no different.

BASH is nothing new.

"As news travels at the speed of gossip, the public is more aware of a problem we have been combating in aviation for a long time," said Maj. Gerard Fontenot, station BASH and aviation safety officer.

While programs constantly evolve, vary widely due to differing locations, and may be very complex, all programs break neatly into two concepts: habitat-and-wildlife management and harassment.

The first step is always habitat-and-wildlife management; this is the proactive approach and is much easier, if possible, at accomplishing the end goal.

"You start with habitat management," said Fontenot. "The goal of wildlife management and habitat manipulation is to create as close to a biological desert as possible; if nothing is living, it's much less attractive to the birds."

Fontenot attended last year's Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada meeting hosted by Salt Lake City International Airport.

The Salt Lake City Department of Airports has made arrangements with the local government to modify the environment surrounding the airport up to 10 miles out, said Fontenot. Moreover, as much as possible, the area occupied by the airport has been covered in asphalt.

Here, environmental modification is much more limited. The airfield is surrounded by water. Fish live in water. Birds eat fish from the water.

"This is a very challenging airfield because of the water," said Glenn Prince, the station airfield manager who did his own BASH work while serving with the Air Force.

Getting rid of the water simply isn't an option.

Thus, harassment techniques must be used. "They (the birds) get comfortable," said Prince. "Harassment is the key; you want to harass them as much as possible."

The initial stage of harassment uses passive measures.

One technique available, once grass actually starts growing, is to keep it trimmed between

6-12 inches. Apparently, birds don't like the bottom of their wings touching grass. .

But, the grass can't just be let loose because then the birds use it for cover.

Station personnel have also installed anti-perching devices on top of light posts, poles and other areas where birds like to perch.

Unfortunately, covering the entire ground with such devices is infeasible and this leaves many football fields of land for the birds to setup shop on.

Tier two harassment attempts to appeal to the birds' sense of fear and self-preservation using non-lethal means.

Since anti-perching devices cannot be placed in the water retention areas of the airfield or on the vast expanses of open land, approximately 34 cordless land air water (CLAW) systems are spread out on the open land.

A CLAW system is basically a solar paneled box with a car radio and a propane tank inside.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
Once armed with explosive propellant, a variety of noise makers can be placed on the muzzle of the pistol. When fired, the propellant will launch the noise maker into the sky where it will explode, making some awfully loud noise and hopefully scaring birds away.

The CLAW systems can be programed with audio sounds, such as car horns, birds dying, anything really. At the time, the systems did not have audio tracks in place.

So, at the time, the systems were essentially boomsticks.

To use them, a radio operator punches in the code for the desired CLAW system and within a few moments a series of loud booms echo across the airfield.

The volume, especially considering the distance, was nothing short of impressive. It sounded a lot like bombs going off.

The birds, however, seemed less impressed. While not universally ineffective, on multiple occasions the birds the BASH team sought to frighten seemed totally aloof and unconcerned.

And there's the proverbial rub. Every BASH program must tailor itself to what is and is not successful.

The whole program is very much a chess game, but the birds have decided advantages.

Some of the birds are smart; probably smarter than the average person gives credit. For the BASH team's regulars, the birds' intelligence becomes highly anthropomorphized.

"Different birds have different personalities," said Prince. "Geese are the worst because they are fearless. If you see a goose, you don't want to get out of your car and chase it. Stay in your car."

The observed response, or lack thereof, to the CLAW systems tends to lend credibility to the birds' intelligence; i.e., the birds are acclimated to the sound and realize it's

nothing to worry about.

But when facing the birds nearly every day, some develop a more robust analysis of the birds' intelligence.

The birds know the range of the team's tools and the birds know where to move so they are out of range when they see the team coming, said Gunnery Sgt. Shane Smoger, station Airfield Operations chief.

"The birds know our vehicles; they know who I am," Smoger said with exasperation.

Perhaps Smoger has a point; knowing the enemy can be everything.

"Here's our bible," said Smoger pointing to "A Photographic Guide to the birds of Japan & North-East Asia" on Fontenot's office desk.

Also with tailoring comes consideration of what is happening on station. Friday is "dump day," and this affects where birds will be. So even day-to-day the scenario is changing. Time of year, weather and previous

harassment locations can all affect where the birds will be.

Beyond the birds' natural adaptive strategies, humans inadvertently help.

"The largest problem is reporting," said Fontenot. "The better we get as aviators at reporting bird strikes, and maintainers reporting bird strikes, the better the program will be."

The only true way to effectively tailor the BASH program is to have active reporting, not just significant strikes, but near misses, non-damaging and damaging strikes.

A larger pool of data allows the BASH program to be more effectively tailored to the threat.

Every time the BASH team rolls out, the return is fraught with a slew of paperwork identifying what species were where and attempting to decipher where the birds are moving, where they are getting comfortable and what techniques are proving effective.

Even with the level of wildlife management Salt Lake City International has achieved, the SCLI website references 20 hours per day of patrol by airport operations officers armed with a myriad of tools.

Many of these tools are aptly named like fireworks: crackers, bangers, poppers and screamers.

Guess what they do.

While some of these tools may have success elsewhere, the birds around MCAS Iwakuni's airfield didn't respond much except when the screamers were used.

And though the concept may be unpleasant, the final option and stage of harassment is lethal force.

"If we ask them politely to leave, they deny our request," said Smoger.

Make no mistake, the BASH team is not a group of bird hunters out having a good old time. The word is depredation; that's what the BASH team does and only when necessary.

"It's more than just getting guns and shooting birds for fun," said Prince. "It can be a pain."

Birds aren't exactly easy targets. An advantage not mentioned, because it's patently obvious, is the fact that birds can fly. It's very frustrating because they just wait until we leave," said Fontenot. "They will basically end up harassing the harassers."

The birds proved unreachable for comment.

Ultimately, the BASH program here is designed with one key principle in mind: Keeping the aviators and the aircraft safe, so they can accomplish the mission; the primary reason all of us are here.

Gunnery Sgt. Shane Smoger, station Airfield Operations chief, fires a 12-gauge shotgun at a bird during a Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard depredation exercise near the airfield here Feb. 4. While always used as a last resort, lethal force is sometimes necessary to curb bird populations around the airfield. Depredating over water causes another set of concerns because the bird must be collected if at all possible. Leaving dead animals of any kind has the potential to attract more winged predators, which is counter-intuitive to the BASH program's goals.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

(LEFT) Gunnery Sgt. Shane Smoger (front), station Airfield Operations chief, and Maj. Gerard Fontenot, station BASH and aviation safety officer, study bird flight paths in an attempt to anticipate where the birds are heading during a Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard depredation exercise near the airfield here Feb. 4. One of the most difficult tasks for the BASH team is to effectively track the birds while keeping them in range for harassment and depredation measures.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

(RIGHT) One harassment method used by the Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard team is a cordless land air water system. The device is basically a propane tank with a car radio. Once the CLAW system receives a signal from an operator, a propane bubble will fill in the hopper portion at the back of the tube. The bubble is then ignited causing a booming sound very similar to a bomb being detonated. In theory, this loud sound is supposed to frighten birds into vacating the area. Some CLAW systems are equipped with speakers and can be signaled to play whatever sounds have been installed in the unit.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Anti-perching devices have been installed atop light posts, poles and other such objects where birds attempt to perch around the airfield. The principle is simple, the bars do not have enough tensile strength to support the birds and the birds can't perch effectively on the actual light.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand Province, Afghanistan — U.S. Marines with Battery F, Company I, Battalion Landing Team 3/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Regimental Combat Team 2, fire the Expeditionary Fire Support System 120mm Mortar at Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 5, 2011. The fire mission was in support of Marine snipers protecting villagers from Taliban murder and intimidation in the area. Elements of 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed to Afghanistan to provide regional security in Helmand province in support of the International Security Assistance Force.



Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand Province, Afghanistan — An Expeditionary Fire Support System belonging to F Battery 2/12, Battalion Landing Team 3/8, 26th marine Expeditionary Unit, Regimental Combat Team 2, is being towed by a Mine Resistant Armor Protected vehicle aboard Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 29, 2011. This is the first time that EFSS has been employed in Afghanistan. Elements of 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed to Afghanistan to provide regional security in Helmand Province in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

Mortar system goes to war, fires first combat rounds

GUNNERY SGT. BRYCE PIPER
26TH MARINE
EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

COMBAT OUTPOST OUELLETTE, HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines fired the first rounds using the Expeditionary Fire Support System during combat operations Jan. 29. In support of the International Security Assistance Force, Marines with F Battery, Battalion Landing Team 3/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Regimental Combat Team 2, fired the new 120mm mortar system from Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand province, Afghanistan.

“I’ve got a good group of guys,” said Sgt. Jason McIlwain, section chief with F Battery who was part of the team that fired the first round.

The four-man team also included Cpl. Donald Schaeffer, recorder with Gun 2, Cpl. Kent Smith, gunner with Gun 2, and Lance Cpl. Gavin King, the number 1 man.

The first rounds fired from EFSS in support of combat operations was a M1105 illumination projectile, used to light an area occupied by snipers attached to Company I, BLT 3/8.

Illumination denies any enemy concealment in darkness and deters nighttime emplacement of improvised explosive devices.

“We stood this battery

up in March of 2009,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jeremy Black, battery gunnery sergeant. Black explained that his Marines have refined their skills in the time since.

“Once they get the mission on the gunline, they can fire six rounds a minute; one about every 10 or 15 seconds,” he added.

EFSS is the third leg in a triad of land-based fire support for expeditionary operations that also includes the lightweight 155mm Howitzer and high mobility artillery rocket system.

The highly-mobile EFSS can be towed by ground vehicles or transported by MV-22 Osprey Tiltrotor Aircraft and CH-53E Super Stallion Helicopters, allowing expeditionary Marines with a Marine Air Ground Task Force to quickly establish supporting fires in a variety of situations.

BLT 3/8 deployed to Helmand province to establish and maintain security in support of the International Security Assistance Force. The security the Marines provide will neutralize insurgent networks and support development projects, allowing the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to foster socio-economic development in the area.

“It felt good,” said McIlwain. “I’m excited to be part of history, being the first to shoot the EFSS system in combat is a good feeling.”



Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand Province, Afghanistan — An Expeditionary Fire Support System belonging to F Battery 2/12, Battalion Landing Team 3/8, 26th marine Expeditionary Unit, Regimental Combat Team 2, is being towed by a Mine Resistant Armor Protected vehicle aboard Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 29, 2011. This is the first time that EFSS has been employed in Afghanistan. Elements of 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed to Afghanistan to provide regional security in Helmand Province in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

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.

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. by appointment only and every Saturday in the month of February. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 253-5951, 253-3540, 253-5591, 253-5962.

Iwakuni Pacific Basketball Camp

Basketball camp is scheduled to run April 11 - 17. The camp is open to all Community Recreation Leagues and DoDEA students age 10-18. Registration is \$150 and includes a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Registration runs until March 11 at the Matthew C. Perry High School front office. For more information, call Coach Dewayne Pigge at 080-3411-5697 or e-mail dewayne.pigge@pac.dodea.edu.

DeCA Sponsored 2011 Scholarships for Military Children Program

Scholarship applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online at <http://www.commissaries>.

Mothers of Preschoolers Volunteer Opportunities

MOPS is looking for volunteers to work with our MOPPETS ages new born - 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 for more information.

Baby Boot Camp

The class will focus on post partum care, infant care, couples communication, etc and is scheduled for March 11 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Registration required. Expecting mothers in their third trimester are encouraged to attend. To sign up or for more information call the New Parent Support Program at 253-5043 or 253-6553.

Toddler Boot Camp

The class will give tips on potty training, tantrums, nutrition, developmental milestones, etc and is scheduled for Feb. 28 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration required. To sign up or for more information call the New Parent Support Program at 253-5043 or 253-6553.

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

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 Tuesday. For more information, call the DeCA departmento at 253-4873.

Choir Tryouts

The choir will perform at the Annual Cherry Blossom Gospel Concert that will be held at the Kintai Bridge park stage in April. Choir tryouts and practices are scheduled for Sundays from 2 - 3 p.m. For more information, call 090-4104-1541 or email billiej316@gmail.com

Travel Counselor

CWTSatoTravel has a travel counselor

now – Thursday. For more information, e-mail IwakuniGS@gmail.com.

Fellowship Breakfast

Come join us for Christian fellowship, group discussion, and breakfast every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:15 a.m. at the northside mess hall. For more information, call Chaplain Bruce West at 253-3371 or John Cordero at 253-5301 or 080-3217-3205.

Choir Tryouts

The choir will perform at the Annual Cherry Blossom Gospel Concert that will be held at the Kintai Bridge park stage in April. Choir tryouts and practices are scheduled for Sundays from 2 - 3 p.m. For more information, call 090-4104-1541 or email billiej316@gmail.com

Vehicles

1999 Toyota Fun Cargo

Well maintained vehicle with power everything, A/C and heat works great. Seats 5. \$2000. JCI good until July 2012. For more information, call 253-2602 or 080-4186-0336 or email Jeffery Cope at jeffery.s.cope@usmc.mil.

Jobs

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.

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 to be 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 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 child to brush his/her teeth for 2 full minutes at least 2 times per day.
- After brushing, your child should also floss their teeth 2x per day.
- Limit the amount of sugared drinks and carbohydrates your child ingests daily.
- Schedule a dental exam and cleaning for your child 2 times per year.
- Discourage your child from chewing on pencils or other hard objects that could damage a tooth.
- Change your child’s toothbrush every 3 months and more frequently if your child has been sick. Toothbrush bristles break down and lose their effectiveness. In addition, worn bristles can become a breeding ground for germs.

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.

Photo of the week



Two Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Marines attack the dancing flames during a practice exercise in their fire pit here Sunday. Do you have your own photo 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, February 18, 2011
7 p.m. Season Of The Witch (PG-13) *Premier*
10 p.m. The Fighter (R) *Premier*

Saturday, February 19, 2011
1 p.m. Gulliver’s Travels (PG)
4 p.m. The Green Hornet (PG-13)
7 p.m. Season Of The Witch (PG-13)

Sunday, February 20, 2011
1 p.m. Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of The Dawn Treader (PG)
4 p.m. True Grit (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Fighter (R)

Monday, February 21, 2011
1 p.m. Gulliver’s Travels (PG)
4 p.m. The Fighter (R)

Tuesday, February 22, 2011
7 p.m. The Green Hornet

Wednesday, February 23, 2011
7 p.m. Season of the Witch

Thursday, February 24, 2011
7 p.m. True Grit (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
Cream of broccoli soup, French-onion soup, baked chicken and rice, Yakiniiku steak and vegetables, steamed rice, lyonnaise green beans, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, standard salad bar, peanut-butter cookies, chocolate cream pie with whipped topping and double layer banana cake with butter cream frosting.

Tuesday
Minestrone soup, tomato soup, roast fresh ham, shrimp scampi, potatoes au gratin, rice pilaf, glazed carrots, broccoli combo, grilled cheese, potato salad, Italian-style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake with butter cream frosting and coconut pie.

Wednesday
Chicken and rice soup, New England clam chowder, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, grilled ham and cheese, tempura-fried fish, macaroni and cheese, oven-glow potatoes, broccoli polonaise, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spring salad, chocolate drop cookies, double-layer Florida lemon cake with lemon butter cream frosting and blueberry pie.

Thursday
Chicken noodle soup, cream of potato soup, apple-glazed corn beef, teriyaki chicken, rissole potatoes, noodles Jefferson, succotash, fried cabbage, hot mustard sauce, chicken gravy, cornbread, potato salad, German-style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, yellow cake with butter cream frosting and chocolate cream pie with whipped topping.

Friday
Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, shrimp creole, beef cordon bleu, herbed broccoli, lemon-baked fish, parsley-buttered potatoes, steamed rice, carrots, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double-layer German chocolate cake with coconut cream frosting and pumpkin-pie with whipped topping.

Blue Bolts vs. Snakes: Lightning strikes twice during youth basketball



Jadyn Prado, Snakes point guard, attempts to get past Burt Breazeal, Blue Bolts center, in a 5- to 6-year-old division youth basketball season game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Feb. 10. Breazeal later attempted his own offensive attack to score.



Alejandro A. McCabe, Blue Bolts small forward, couldn’t get to Dylan Rakestraw, Snakes center, as he shoots to make a basket in a 5- to 6-year-old division youth basketball season game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Feb. 10. Both teams showed improvements on their teamwork by passing to open players.

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Blue Bolts faced off against the Snakes in a 5- to 6-year-old division youth basketball season game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Feb. 10.

Being a 5- to 6-year-old game, no score was kept since the focus is for the children to practice teamwork and have fun.

The Blue Bolts aggressive offense was able to show up the Snakes defense.

The Blue Bolts defense wasn’t as awesome as its offense was as Dylan Rakestraw, Snakes power forward, was able to shoot past the Blue Bolts defense to sink a basket.

The Blue Bolts defense kept at it, but was overwhelmed by the Snakes offensive attack ending the first quarter.

The Blue Bolts players used lightning fast speed for their offense to outmaneuver the Snakes defense to start the second quarter.

“We’re looking a lot better and working as a team,” said Eric Chrostowski, Blue Bolts head coach. “For the third game, I think we’re doing pretty well.”

Ronald Pearcy, Blue Bolts power forward, showed exceptional skill by taking the ball from one end of the court to the other to shoot a bucket.

“My team was awesome,” said Pearcy. “We scored a lot.”

The Snakes didn’t want to be outdone and tried to charge again.

That was until Sean Slaughter, Blue Bolts center, stole the ball and passed to Janna Baldelomar, Blue Bolts small forward, who missed the shot.

Aubrey Rakestraw, Snakes center, rebounded and continued the battle for her team until a time out was called with 3:11 left in the second quarter.

“We tried to pass the ball around, get the rebounds and control the tempo of the game,” said Andy Delgado, Snakes replacement head coach. “When the kids are at practice, we get them to focus on passing, dribbling, free throws and layups.”

Burt Breazeal, Blue Bolts center, ran the ball behind enemy lines only to have his chance thwarted by Noah Valdez, Snakes point guard.

The Blue Bolts offense wouldn’t let up and continued the fight until Zane Ruppel, Snakes center, tried to steal the ball but went out of bounds with it.

The Blue Bolts offense rose again as the players ducked, dodged and outmaneuvered the Snakes defense throughout the third quarter.

Sweat poured and teeth grinded as the players clashed at the start of the fourth quarter.

The Snakes offense took off, but possession ended in the Blue Bolts players’ hands.

Both teams continued to go at each other viciously until Slaughter sank the last ball of the game.

“From what I saw tonight, the focus on the next practice will be to pass the ball to the open man so that he can make the shot,” Delgado said.

Both teams showed improvements on their teamwork by passing to open players.



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Nobuhisa Tanigawa, the 2011 Gokukan 5 kilometer Run winner, and Touru Tanoue, the runner-up, lead the other competitors as the race started behind the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 11. Tanigawa finished the run with the best time of 18:09 and Tanoue only seconds behind; however, every competitor completed the extreme cold race.

Runners sprint fast pace in cold race

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In the cold overcast skies along the cold stone sea wall, runners braved the cold strong winds to race in the 2011 Gokukan 5 km Run behind the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 11.

The question, "what does Gokukan stand for?" was asked. Extreme cold is the answer.

The Gokukan 5 km Run was a race between friendly competitors for the love of running, no matter the climate.

"As long as the competitors had fun, I think the run was a success," said Thomas Durning, the IronWorks Gym athletic director.

Many runners who enjoyed each other's company and shared a love to exercise came out to the event.

"I came out here to have fun and run with

my buddies," Bruce B. West, a Gokukan 5K runner said.

"I feel good being with people and enjoying life."

Even though the race was just for fun, someone had to win. On that cold day, only one competitor could be seen before the others in the distance. Nobuhisa Tanigawa, a Gokukan 5K runner, was the first to cross the finish line with a completion time of 18:09.

"I was in good condition today for the run," Tanigawa said. "I train everyday to stay that way."

West, who came out to run with his friends, trains because he likes to exercise.

"I run a couple of times a week and do regular PT," said West. "It's a blast."

The competitors who showed up finished the run despite the weather and were few in

numbers.

"I hope the run keeps getting bigger and bigger every year," said Tanigawa.

This run was only a stepping stone for future Marine Corps Community Services athletic events.

"You run to get better at running," Durning said. "This event was to keep people moving before spring time comes, so they are ready for more races that we have coming up."

With new and exciting events on the horizon, the MCCS staff encouraged more runners to come out to compete.

"I would recommend everybody to come out to our events because they're fun and full of exercise," Durning said.

With this year's Gokukan 5 kilometer race over and done with, the runners can continue to train for the upcoming 5th annual Kintai Road Race March 6.

2011 Gokukan 5km run winners

Men ages 29 and under

1st Place: Tsuyoshi Kitamura 21:56

2nd Place: Pablo Hernandez 23:39

3rd Place: Xavier Paker 24:51

Men ages 30 - 49

1st Place: Nobuhisa Tanigawa 18:09

2nd Place: Roru Tanoue 19:04

3rd Place: Alexis Flores 22:22

Women ages 34 and under

1st Place: Genny Stiller 33:20

2nd Place: Anna Jusino 35:16

Women ages 35 and older

1st Place: Tonya Curlee 24:34

2nd Place: Yolanda Olivias 25:14

3rd Place: Jennifer White 26:40

Ages 50 and up

1st Place: Chikao Sasaki 24:34