

Mental, physical testing  
VMFA(AW)-533  
test for MCMAP | P. 6&7



2011 Road Tax Season  
has begun  
For more information see | P. 9



## OPERATION TOMODACHI

For updates on Operation Tomodachi, please check the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni website:  
<http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcasiwakuni>

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 14 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Harbor Operations lends hand to Operation Tomodachi



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

A Marine with Combat Logistics Company 36 wraps cases of water at the station harbor March 22 before they are loaded onto a 7-ton truck in support of Operation Tomodachi. Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is an essential strategic co-located air and sea port that supports as a logistical and resupply hub in support of Operation Tomodachi. The station is the only air station in the Honshu Island region with an airfield and a deep sea harbor.

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Since the approximately 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck in the Tohoku region of northern Japan, March 11, Harbor Operations has continued to play a supporting role in Operation Tomodachi.

Operation Tomodachi is a joint humanitarian effort implemented by U.S. and Japanese governments to give affected residents supplies and relief.

In immediate response to the disaster, Harbor Operations supported the movement of more than 450 tons of relief supplies on the HSV Express.

The High Speed Vessel WestPac Express is a private ship contracted by the U.S. Navy for rapid deployment of military personnel, supplies and equipment during exercises and operations.

The HSV first arrived here March 16 with humanitarian supplies for the operation.

Since the operation began, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni has hosted Marines

SEE HARBOR ON PAGE 3

## NEO readies residents to evacuate in case of emergency

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

Installation Personnel Administration Center Marines took part in the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation exercise here March 31.

The exercise has taken on particular significance after the 9.0 earthquake rocked northern Japan, ultimately rising the possibility of evacuees being transported here.

The exercise tested the station's preparedness to evacuate nonessential personnel from the air station.

IPAC Marines set up shop in a hangar near the harbor at 8 a.m.

to stage and prep their laptops before the first wave of simulated evacuees arrived.

The evacuees arrived at 9 a.m. They entered critical information into the NEO tracking system once checked in.

"We took their passports and other information so we could track them in the system if they have to be evacuated," said Lance Cpl. Brian Alldis, a Marine with the Information Management Branch of IPAC.

Efficiency was a key component of the exercise.

"Our purpose today was to establish a timeline," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bradley J.

SEE EVACUATION ON PAGE 3

## The Hawks soar back to Iwakuni after clawing at Cope Tiger 2011

CPL. MARCEL BROWN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand** — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 Marines wrapped up exercise Cope Tiger 2011 here March 24.

"I think the exercise went extremely well. I was certainly proud of our performance as a squadron during the exercise," said Lt. Col. George B. Rowell, VMFA(AW)-533 commanding officer. "I was very proud of all the Marines and all the hard work they did."


VMFA(AW)-533 falls under the Unit Deployment Program, a program created by the commandant of the Marine Corps to reduce the number of unaccompanied tours and improve unit continuity by deploying units to the Western Pacific for approximately six-month intervals.

Marines with supporting units Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 12 and Marine Air Control Squadron 4 also made their return to Iwakuni.

VMFA(AW)-533 worked side by

SEE TIGER ON PAGE 3





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

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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## ‘Lent: What is it? Why is it?’

LT. FULGENCIO L. LEGASPI  
MAG-12  
DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

Lent 2011 is a 40-day season of preparation for Easter that begins on a Wednesday, called Ash Wednesday, March 9 and ends on Holy Saturday, April 23. On Ash Wednesday, ash is a symbol of being sorry for things people have done wrong and want to get rid of forever. It is also a reminder to people that we all come from ashes and to ashes we all will return. The marking on the forehead with ash marks the commitment to Jesus Christ and God. The highlight of the year is Easter, the day they believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Why is Lent 40 days, if when you count the days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday there are 46 days? Because, of the

Bible story that tells of how Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. The six Sundays during Lent are not counted among the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter,” a celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death. Lent is a time of fasting, prayer, temptation and repentance for believers. Lent has been a custom that Christians have practiced for most of the last 2,000 years. It is a time to prepare new converts for baptism and a time for Christians to review their lives and renew their commitment to their beliefs. In many languages, the word “lent” actually means “fast.” This is where the custom of giving up something for Lent originated. Lent is also a Teutonic word, meaning spring season. That is why Lent is celebrated close to or

during the spring time. Just as nature renews herself from the dead of winter to a life of spring, individuals have the capacity to revive their lives from a dead faith to a living faith. The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Christian church asks Christian’s to surrender themselves to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving alms. Fasting on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals: fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is an effort to share, not only through resources, but through the sharing of time and talents. Christians are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to truly convert their hearts and minds to become followers of Christ. Fasting, prayer and almsgiving are not only for Christians to practice, but they are also for everybody.

## Maj. Gen. pays visit, praises Marines



Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, commanding general of 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan and Joint Force Land Component commander for Operation Tomodachi, praises Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 during a visit here March 30 for its unwavering dedication to Operation Tomodachi’s mission accomplishment. Operation Tomodachi is a joint humanitarian assistance operation implemented by the U.S. armed forces and Japan to provide aid following the approximately 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami in northern Japan, March 11. VMGR-152 was tasked with providing air transport of personnel, equipment, cargo and humanitarian aid to affected areas. Since VMGR-152’s initial arrival here March 12, the squadron has logged more than 350 flight hours, 200 sorties, and 1.1 million pounds of transported cargo for the humanitarian operation with the support of the station.

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

# VMFA(AW)-533 concludes exercise Cope Tiger 2011, returns to Iwakuni

TIGER FROM PAGE 1

side with the Royal Thai and Singapore Air Forces throughout the exercise. “I think during any exercise like this where you have three nations working together, there’s always room for improvement on everything,” said Rowell. “Communication can always be better, but that’s something that got better throughout the exercise. As long as we’re making forward progress, that’s what counts. And that’s certainly what we all in the exercise were doing during this time.” For the exercise, VMFA(AW)-533 and supporting nations focused primarily on conducting and coordinating large force employment.


“I think for the air crew, planning, leading, briefing and debriefing large force integration is probably the number one thing that we took out of the exercise,” said Rowell. “We don’t get the opportunity to fly with over 60 aircraft very often, and that’s the number one thing I think we gained.” Rowell said the large force employment training was not only beneficial for Pacific flight operations, but also useful for current operations in Afghanistan. Although flight operations were the main focus, the VMFA(AW)-533 pilots weren’t the only ones to contribute to the success of the exercise. “The exercise was successful due to a lot

of the Marines’ hard work and dedication. The Marines maintained a high morale throughout the exercise,” said Sgt. Maj. Suzie M. Hollings, VMFA(AW)-533 sergeant major. “Of course they always have obstacles, but they overcame every obstacle, and they did a phenomenal job as usual.” Not only did the Marines accomplish the overall mission, but they presented themselves as good American ambassadors by avoiding any negative incidents. “Everybody represented themselves, the Marine Corps and 533 very well. That always makes for a very good exercise. On top of that, they accomplished the mission, so I’m extremely proud,” said Hollings.

## Exercise tests station’s response time in case of evacuation

EVACUATION FROM PAGE 1

Goode, IPAC director and NEO tracking system officer-in-charge. “We wanted to see how long it would take us to in-process and out-process 100 people,” said Goode. In less than an hour, 114 evacuees were in-processed with only two processing stations in place. The process involved putting vital information into the tracking system. From that point, the evacuees were directed to submit personal belongings for search to make sure no dangerous items were being brought onto the station. The next step involved the evacuees being set up in temporary lodging. The final portion of the exercise had the evacuees out-processed at the station terminal to fly to a safe location. As fast as simulated evacuees piled into the terminal to fly out from the station, they were quickly out-processed by IPAC and the Provost Marshal’s Office Marines, who were helping with the out-processing as they would in an actual NEO. “We had heard it took 40 minutes to process 15 people, so we wanted to make sure we established hard numbers in case we had to receive 1,200-2,800 people coming through this area and we had to process them. We’re just validating the system,” said Goode. To help streamline the process in case the NEO went from an exercise to an actual evacuation, is for evacuees to have a NEO packet. “(The NEO packet) seems to scare people,” said Goode. Goode said the packets are similar to filling out paperwork for the Traffic Management Office when changing duty stations. Passports, birth certificates and other important documents would be needed in the event of an evacuation. “These things won’t hold you back on getting out of country, but it helps you process



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Lance Cpls. Nathaniel Haynes, Vincent Wong and Batista Ferrera, Installation Personnel Administration Center personnel clerks, sort through tags for identifying evacuees’ personal belongings during the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation exercise here March 31. The exercise tested the station’s ability to quickly, efficiently and effectively process residents in the event of a crisis.

through to your safe haven,” said Goode. Another avenue Marines could use in case of evacuation is contacting their Family Readiness Officer, said Alldis. Another challenge highlighted by the exercise was the importance of being able to reach evacuees when seating on the aircraft becomes available. “That was the only real stickler I saw,” said Goode. “If we’ve got to evacuate 1,200 people and only 300 seats are available at the

moment, we need to find a way to let those people know.” Marines and station residents involved in the exercise witnessed firsthand the effectiveness and efficiency of the station’s ability to get residents in and out of the system in case of a crisis. The annual training guarantees that in the case of an event that does require evacuation, the station will do so as quickly and painlessly as possible.

## Harbor Operations supports Operation Tomodachi, humanitarian efforts

HARBOR FROM PAGE 1

and sailors deployed from Okinawa, Japan, to help with humanitarian efforts, supplies, aircraft and the HSV. In Japan’s time of need, the station has been an essential strategic co-located air and sea port supporting the operation as a logistical and resupply hub. The station is the only air station in the Honshu Island region with an airfield and a deep sea harbor. Since Operation Tomodachi began, the tempo has increased in Harbor Operations.

Although other exercises and operations were taking place, Operation Tomodachi took immediate precedence over the others, said Petty Officer 1st Class George D. Payumo, Harbor Operations quartermaster. With an increased operational tempo, communication and coordination improved. “(The operation) has helped us to coordinate better with the units,” said Payumo. “We have taken a more active role, looking at the inventories, what and where it’s going, allowing us to know who and what is coming into the harbor,” he added. Harbor Operations runs its schedules as 12-

hour shifts, two shifts per day, seven days a week, but since Operation Tomodachi began, harbor personnel have worked more than normal, picking up shifts when extra workers are needed to help load and unload. When the HSV Westpac Express returns, Harbor Operations will communicate with the supporting units to help load and unload the vessel. Harbor Operations works day in and day out to ensure the harbor runs with speed and efficiency.



# Three departments accomplishing one mission



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
A humvee loaded with relief supplies is loaded onto a KC-130J in support of Operation Tomodachi here March 31. The station has been a vital resupply hub for the areas affected by the earthquake and ensuing tsunami in northern Japan.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Oelschleagl, a Marine Air Control Squadron 4 air traffic communication technician, ensures the humvee he is driving is loaded safely on a KC-130J that is slated to deliver relief supplies in support of Operation Tomodachi here March 31. The supplies are for the disaster victims in northern Japan.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
Lance Cpl. Cesar Tierrablanca, a station Air Terminal passenger service agent, provides assistance to Lance Cpl. Carlos Monroy, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 powerline mechanic, here March 29. Passenger service agents from the Passenger Service Center make sure passengers are taken care of and get to where they need to be.

## Station Air Terminal works to support Operation Tomodachi

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors at the station Air Terminal tirelessly supported aircraft, load and unload cargo and personnel in support of Operation Tomodachi.

Operation Tomodachi is a joint humanitarian effort implemented by U.S. and Jpanaese governments to give affected residents supplies and relief.

The three different departments that keep the Air Terminal running are Air Freight, Passenger Service Center and the Air Terminal Operations Center.

ATOC deals in communicating with the aircraft, ensuring the Marines and sailors are ready to support them before they land or take off.

“We assist the aircraft with anything they need before they land,” said Seaman Deante Patterson, a station Air Terminal ATOC logistics specialist. “That way they can get on and off deck as soon as possible to complete the mission.”

The aircraft on approach to the station radio into ATOC and make appropriate arrangements.

“That’s when it comes to us,” said Lance Cpl. Sean Jones, an ATOC clerk. “If they request fuel, then we make sure they get it. If they have passengers or cargo, we get the manifests that go to Air Freight and the Passenger Service Center. That way everyone knows who and what is coming in and going out.”

The Air Freight Marines use the cargo manifest as an inventory to keep track of the supplies and gear that is needed for the different aircraft.

Air Freight Marines receive gear that comes off of cargo planes such as KC-130s. The cargo can range from humanitarian relief supplies to operational equipment.

“We get all the cargo ready for the aircraft here,” said Cpl. Ryan Phetsouphan, the Air Freight noncommissioned officer in charge. “If it weren’t for Air Freight Marines, the cargo wouldn’t be able to get prepared and loaded or unloaded from the aircraft.”

More than one million pounds of cargo,

including water, power generators, hygiene gear and various other supplies needed by the disaster victims, has left Iwakuni since Operation Tomodachi began.

“We’ve done a lot of support for Operation Tomodachi,” Phetsouphan said. “We had to move Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and MWSS-172 equipment onto KC-130s when the operation first started so that the supplies sent later could be unloaded and delivered to the people who need them most.”

Like the cargo, the passengers don’t get on and off the aircraft by themselves. Passenger service agents from the Passenger Service Center are there to make sure passengers are taken care of and get to where they need to be.

“We’re sending Marines and sailors to their destinations in northern Japan so they can help as much as possible,” said Pfc. Jaiyon Gibbs, a station Air Terminal passenger service agent. “If they need more gear we’ll send them gear. If they need more people to help, we’ll send them more people, anything to get the mission done.”

Even with more hours devoted to work, one of the biggest regrets these Marines and sailors have is that they can’t go up north and help with the relief efforts more directly.

“We’ve put in a lot of work to get this mission done,” Gibbs said. “As much as we would love to go up there and help, somebody needs to stay behind to help support the aircraft and personnel here.”

The mission isn’t accomplished by one person. It takes a team.

“It’s all teamwork,” Gibbs said. “In order for the terminal to operate it takes teamwork. We assist everybody that needs to be taken care of.”

The old terminal is only able to support approximately 200 passengers. The new terminal can support upwards of 800 passengers. The new terminal also has areas the passengers can go to relax and watch TV before their flights.

The crew at the station air terminal is critical in the station’s ability to function as a resupply hub for Operation Tomodachi, and they daily display their dedication to support service members in completing their mission.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
Lance Cpl. Anthony Spagnola, a station Air Terminal air freight Marine, checks the inventory manifest here to ensure all supplies are accounted for March 31. The Air Freight Marines use the manifest as an inventory to keep track of the supplies that will be sent to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami stricken areas in northern Japan.

# Chiefs changing lives since 1893

## Sailors celebrate 118 years of CPO leadership

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

More than 50 local Navy service members celebrated 118 years of leadership here April 1 to acknowledge the impact chief petty officers have on the growth of young sailors and the naval service as a whole.

The U.S. Navy chief petty officer status includes three ranks: chief petty officer (E-7), senior chief petty officer (E-8), master chief petty officer and master chief petty officer of the Navy (E-9).

The rank of chief petty officer was established April 1, 1893 and in 1895, all petty officers first class were automatically shifted to the new rank with the exception of schoolmasters, ships’ writers and carpenters’ mates.

Many naval service members pay homage to Jacob Wasbie, a cook’s mate serving on board the U.S.S. Alfred, which is one of the first Continental Navy warships during the Revolutionary War. Wasbie was promoted to Chief Cook June 1, 1776. Although Ship’s Cook was the official rating title at that time, Chief Cook is the earliest example of the use of the term “Chief.”

“It is special to us to see and recognize our chiefs as our higher-ups,” said Seaman Apprentice Scott Digman, Branch Health Clinic corpsman assistant. “They are the cream of the crop.”

Sailors began their celebration with a two-mile motivational run around the air station in the morning and then carried out the plan

of the day in proper uniform attire for the occasion.

CPOs wore their dress service khaki uniforms and khaki combination covers, which was commonly worn during World War II and the Vietnam War era. The chief’s cover is deemed a rite of passage and an emblem of accomplishment.

“The chiefs’ cover also symbolizes authority and tradition,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Alex Flores, Marine Aircraft Group 12 Navy senior enlisted leader. “We uphold Navy traditions and keep those traditions dear to us to ensure they are passed on to the junior sailors.”

CPO uniforms are also intended to be identical to that of an officer’s uniform but with different insignia based on rate and job. “We are the liaison between the officers and the junior enlisted,” Flores said. “We set the tone for our junior troops to follow.”

The essential mission of chief petty officers in the Navy is not only to specialize and become subject matter experts in their field, but also to supervise and mentor those who fall under their charge. Therefore, they hold the responsibility to set the example.

Chief Petty Officer Adrian Figueroa, BHC administration leading chief petty officer, is a perfect example of CPO leadership, Digman said.

“Chief Figueroa always personally comes in and makes sure I’m doing well,” he said. “Chiefs are just great motivational tools.”

CPOs also help to ensure the personal and professional well being of their younger



sailors. Whether a younger sailor has an issue pertaining to family, health, administration, finance or career, CPOs maintain an open line of communication and enthusiasm to problem solve.

The CPO community is tight-knit, said Flores.

“I can call up chiefs anywhere in the United States or around the globe and ask ‘Chief, will you be able to help my sailor,’” said Flores. “We get things done easier that way.”

CPOs also share common values when it pertains to working as a group and making sure to properly train future leaders.

“Once you reach the level of a chief, it’s not about you anymore,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Ron Hunter, 11th Dental Company Navy senior enlisted leader. “It’s about what you can do to bring junior sailors up to where you are.”

CPOs continue to serve as a vital element of naval command, providing a solid backbone, source of motivation and expertise.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: CHIEF PETTY OFFICER GIOVANNI BALANGAN  
(From left to right) Retired Master Chief Petty Officer Gary L. Bernhard, Chief Petty Officer Kathryn L. Remm, Chief Petty Officer Amalia G. Rodriguez, Chief Petty Officer Edwin Guingab, Chief Petty Officer Franklin B. Dizon, Chief Petty Officer Giovanni H. Balangan, Chief Petty Officer Abner B. Cordova, Senior Chief Petty Officer Dean S. Dhami, Senior Chief Petty Officer Ronald S. Hunter, Chief Petty Officer Jose Afable, Chief Petty Officer Chris A. Lang, Chief Petty Officer Grandvedour N. Price, Senior Chief Petty Officer Seon H. Wickham, Chief Petty Officer Mark L. Gerard, Senior Chief Petty Officer Darwin P. Alfafara, Chief Petty Officer Adrian Figueroa, Senior Chief Petty Officer Alexis H. Flores, Chief Petty Officer Paul L. McCallister, Chief Petty Officer Michael D. Gomez



# MCMAP attack:

## VMFA(AW)-533 Marines endure pain before gain

CPL. MARCEL BROWN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIRFORCE BASE, Thailand** — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 Marines earned their Marine Corps Martial Arts Program brown belts after completing an exhausting station rotation drill here March 25. “I definitely feel like I earned it,” said Lance Cpl. Jeremiah Cain, VMFA(AW)-533 airframe mechanic. “I was never confident with my ground fighting. I never really knew what I was doing because I never had any background, but after going through the course, I know a lot more than I knew before.”

The brown belt course, led by MCMAP instructor Sgt. Josenrique Rocha, VMFA(AW)-533 training chief, began March 10, a day after VMFA(AW)-533 arrived at Thailand for exercise Cope Tiger 2011. “I just emphasize what the principles of MCMAP really are. The program synergistically combines your physical, mental and character discipline,” said Rocha.

The course ran five days a week for three weeks. The students began training at 2 p.m. and finished at approximately 4:30 p.m. daily.

“(Sgt. Rocha) would show us a move, make sure we understood it, and then he would show us the real practical application,” said Lance Cpl. Michael J. Freauff Jr., aviation ordnance technician. “A lot of our exercises were fighting one another. So you actually get to practice what you’ve been taught.”

During the course, the Marines covered the tan through brown belt syllabuses, grappled daily, overcame challenging physical training sessions and were given several classes to build character and mental strength.

“The PT sessions were not only very good for the body, but also very good mentally,” said Freauff. “Especially (the final drill), it was such a killer thing that you had to have mental strength to complete it.”

By week three, students began to perfect the tan through brown belt syllabuses while mastering their ground fighting techniques, all in preparation for the final, most intense drill of the course, the station rotation drill.

“It’s a drill that focuses on teamwork, communication and accommodates everything they learned throughout the duration of the course,” said Rocha.

The drill consisted of 10 rotating stations: two mission stations, seven exercise stations and a grappling station with the course instructor.

The two mission stations were the burpee and sprawl stations. Once Marines at either station reached the total number of repetitions posted for mission accomplishment, they stood and screamed “mission mission mission!” The eight other stations continued to exercise until the instructor heard the class echo the mission call in a loud, motivated unison.

To complete the drill, the class had to make four complete course rotations; however, if Rocha heard the monitoring instructors call out a Marine for slacking on an exercise three times, he would give the command “reverse rotation.” Once given, the students had to go back to the prior station and reach the mission all over again.

“The hardest thing about the drill was trying to keep going with your exercise but at the same time trying to be loud and give pointers to the person fighting,” said Cain.

To even the playing field, Rocha offered a catch. If any of the students were able to make him tap out while grappling, the drill would end immediately at his tap.

“Sgt. Rocha’s best aspect is that he’s very technical. He didn’t go full out until he thought there was a chance of the drill ending,” said Freauff. “He applied it to how somebody would react in danger mode. They would snap and the

adrenaline would start to pump.”

Occasionally throughout the drill, Rocha would call a break in which the fighters had a chance to hydrate and regain composure while a student gave a short lecture on one of the core values.

“Instead of having an onslaught of them wasting every drop of energy they had, we gave them supplemental breaks that gave them the chance to not only catch their breath and sip water, but also talk about the core values,” said Rocha. “When they did that, even though they didn’t notice it, they were coming together as a team, and every time they left the middle, they came back to their stations even louder.”

Rocha’s goal of unit cohesion was reached and by the end of the drill, although exhausted, the students began to work and communicate as a team. Together they completed their rotations and the drill was ended.

“We go through boot camp and we have that cohesion and teamwork toward the end, but then when we go through Marine combat training, military occupational school training and get to the fleet, everybody is on their own schedule, so it’s kind of hard to get that cohesion back,” said Rocha. “Communication was a big thing. I tried to implement what the program already has through drills, grappling and showing each other that they can coach each other with the techniques that they all just learned.”

After the drill, the Marines were given time to sustain one last time before finally testing out for their brown belts. The class had a zero percent failure rate and all students graduated.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – Cpl. Gabriel Trevino, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 aviation ordnance technician, performs “bodybuilders” continuously during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program brown belt course station rotation drill here March 25.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – An exhausted Lance Cpl. Michael J. Freauff Jr., Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 aviation ordnance technician, receives the final core values class from one of his peers during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program brown belt course station rotation drill here March 25.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – Sgt. Josenrique Rocha (RIGHT), Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 training chief, wrestles Sgt. Matthew Carroll, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 quality assurance representative, during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program brown belt course station rotation drill here March 25.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – Lance Cpl. Anthony J. Oliveri, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 airframes mechanic, comes into the upward position while performing a “burpee” during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program brown belt course station rotation drill here March 25.







INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

<b>Roman Catholic</b>	
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
<b>Protestant</b>	
Saturday	7 a.m. Men's Ministry 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)
<b>Church of Christ</b>	
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
<b>Latter Day Saints</b>	
Tuesday	6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities
<b>Teen Programs</b>	
• 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



KORAT, Thailand – A group of traditional Thai dancers parade into the Semi Thani Hotel Ball room here March 24 during the Cope Tiger 2011 exercise conclusion party. Muay Thai sparring, Thai food and the Thai dancers complimented the traditional Thai theme of the party. If you have your own photo to submit? Submit your photos to the Public Affairs Office by e-mailing them to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or submit them in person at the Public Affairs 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. For more information call 253-5551.

SAKURA THEATER

<b>Friday, April 8, 2011</b> 7 p.m. The Eagle (PG-13) <i>Premier</i> 10 p.m. The Mechanic (R)	7 p.m. Sanctum (R)	<b>Monday, April 11, 2011</b> 7 p.m. Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13)
<b>Saturday, April 9, 2011</b> 1 p.m. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (PG) <i>Premier</i> 4 p.m. The Eagle (PG-13) 7 p.m. Sanctum (R) <i>Premier</i>	<b>Tuesday, April 12, 2011</b> 7 p.m. The Mechanic (R) <i>Last Showing</i>	<b>Wednesday, April 13, 2011</b> 7 p.m. Sanctum (R)
<b>Sunday, April 10, 2011</b> 1 p.m. Justin Bieber: Never Say Never (G) 4 p.m. Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13)	<b>Thursday, April 14, 2011</b> 1 p.m. Justin Bieber: Never Say Never (G) 7 p.m. The Eagle (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

<b>Monday</b> Bean with bacon soup, shrimp gumbo soup, Carribean flounder, country style steak, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, hush puppies, broccoli combo, calico cabbage, dinner rolls, potato salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake with buttercream frosting and and banana cream pudding.	<b>Tuesday</b> Tomato soup, vegetable soup, lasagna, roast pork, au gratin potatoes, whole kernal corn, mixed vegetables, toasted garlic bread, cream gravy, country style tomato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, cherry pie, Boston cream pie and oatmeal raisin cookies.	<b>Wednesday</b> French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, baked tuna and noodles, breaded pork chop Creole, garlic roasted potatoes, carrots, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, mushroom gravy, cabbage, apple and celery, three bean salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie and devil's food cake with butter cream frosting.	<b>Thursday</b> Manhattan clam chowder, split pea soup, chicken parmesan, Italian sausage, buttered pasta, oven browned potatoes, eggplant parmesan, cauliflower gumbo, alfredo sauce, marinara sauce, garlic bread with cheese, macaroni salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake and banana cream pie with whipped topping.	<b>Friday</b> chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, southern style fried catfish, savory baked chicken, French fried cauliflower, macaroni and cheese, candied sweet potatoes, southern style greens, jalapeno corn bread, cream gravy, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, coconut raisin drop cookies, doulble layer Florida lemon cake with buttercream frosting and chocolate cream pie.
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Players pass, catch, hit baseballs for 2011 Youth Baseball Season

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The players for the 2011 Youth Baseball Season had their skills assessment at Penny Lake Field here Saturday. The assessment was for three age groups: 7 - 9, 10 - 12 and 13 - 15. The players were assessed in three performance areas: hitting, catching and fielding. "I'm having fun with this," said Zach Traylor, a 13- to 15-year-old player. "This is a great way for me and my friends to hang out and have fun playing our favorite sport." The purpose of the assessment is for the coaches and their players to know what the players excel at, need help with, and to balance the players on each team for the season. "I'm really good at catching and throwing the ball," said Alberto Reyes, a 7- to 9-year-old player. "I just need to work on hitting the ball more." The players will be divided up equally into teams after their skills are assessed. "This way there is a fair level of competition for the kids," said Thomas Durning, the IronWorks Gym athletic director. There are approximately 120 players signed up with more than 20 coaches to guide the children through the season. "I like coaching the older kids because their division keeps score, has playoffs and a championship," said William Percy, a 10- to 12-year-old division coach. "It's more fun for the kids and for the coaches that way." The driving force behind youth sports seems to be the camaraderie and exercise the children get from playing. "It's great to get the kids out here and see them work together and enjoy these sports," Percy said. "Being a coach is rewarding in itself." Some coaches thought practice is more important for their teams. "After getting a few intense practices knocked out of the park, the games will be more fun," said Percy. The opening ceremony for the 2011 Youth Baseball Season is scheduled April 23 at the IronWorks Gym sports courts.



Chris Podesta, a 7- to 9-year-old head coach, explains the proper batting stance to Tyler Anderson, a 7- to 9-year-old player, during the hitting performance of the 2011 Youth Baseball Season skills assessment at Penny Lake Field here Saturday. The purpose of the assessment is for the coaches and their players to know what the players excel at, need help with and to balance the players on each team for the season.



Kyle Blanke, a 7- to 9-year-old head coach, shows Alberto Reyes, a 7- to 9-year-old player, how to catch a grounder during the catching performance of the 2011 Youth Baseball Season skills assessment at Penny Lake Field here Saturday. The players were assessed in three performance areas: hitting, catching, infield and outfield maneuvering.





CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

POHANG AIR BASE, South Korea — A Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 F/A-18 races down the flight line here for takeoff March 30 to return to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan after completing training during Foal Eagle 2011. Foal Eagle is an annual training exercise designed to test and improve the defensive field and air capabilities of the participating units in the defense of the Republic of Korea against any regional contingency.

## U.S. and ROK forces train in defense of South Korea

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

### CAMP MUJUK, South Korea

— Pacific theater-based Marine squadrons here concluded their portion of exercise Foal Eagle 2011 March 26.

Foal Eagle is a joint and combined defensive military training evolution designed to exercise the defensive field and air capabilities of the participating service members.

U.S. military forces from around the world, combined with the Republic of Korean military forces, participated in the annual exercise to improve their abilities to defend South Korea against any regional contingency.

All training conducted during the exercise is defensive in nature.

Iwakuni-based Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Combat Logistics Company 36, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 service members participated in the exercise.

Okinawa-based service members with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, Marine Wing Support Group 17, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18, Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18 and Marine Air Control Squadron 4 also participated in the exercise along with augments from MAG-24 based out of Marine Corps Air Facility Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Service members with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 based out of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., also participated in this year's Foal Eagle.

In light of the approximate 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that devastated northern Japan March 11, the participating Pacific Marine forces were faced with various challenges throughout the exercise.

"The biggest challenge was we had a plan we were going to execute; the earthquake struck and all of

III MEF (Marine Expeditionary Force) was rapidly planning and responding to provide support to the humanitarian relief effort," said Lt. Col. P.J. Kerr, MAG-12 operations officer in charge. "Because of that, a number of resources that were scheduled to be applied to Foal Eagle were in question, and as a result, there were a lot of change in plans."

Twenty-four MAG-12 aircraft were slated to land here and fly more than 222 sorties in support of exercise Foal Eagle. Also, more than 1,040 Iwakuni-based service members were scheduled to participate in the exercise.

members supported the exercise here.

Although the exercise was scaled down in size, the participating Marine squadrons were able to conduct valuable aerial training that improved their ability to defensively react to an attack on South Korea.

The Marine pilots conducted their training alongside their U.S. Air Force and ROK counterparts. They were also presented with the unique opportunity to train alongside Marine UAVs.

UAVs are vehicles that can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely. They can obtain imagery

of Yeosu, South Korea. This year, it was moved to Pohang.

The move presented the units with the challenge of adapting to a new environment.

"This is the first time we've done Foal Eagle out of Pohang," said George. "The significance is that this was an untested airfield for Marine aviation up to this point. It was really a validation of what the base could provide."

George said the MAG-12 units now have a better understanding of what resources Pohang can provide in support of an operation being conducted here.

Also as part of Foal Eagle 2011, Lt. Cmdr. Mark Tanis, MWSG-17 chaplain, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Bryan Banks, MWSS-171 religious programmer, lead various community relations projects to local areas and schools. Some of the projects included teaching students and ROK service members English, and others involved beautification projects at local schools.

"Most people who joined the (Marine Corps) raised their hand to be of service," said Tanis. "Many might have thought their service would have been at the pointy end of a spear or a gun or on the flight line. Sometimes the service is in the community just building relationships, so we don't have to use our weapons."

Tanis said the community relations projects were an opportunity for the Marines to see the faces of the people they might one day have to defend and the local people were able to meet the service members who might one day fight for them.

Although Iwakuni-based service members finished their training in Foal Eagle March 26, they continued to conduct individual unit training here until April 1.

Also, 24 MAG-12 F/A-18s safely landed at Pohang Air Base March 30 to hold a warriors' lunch.

Other U.S. and ROK units are scheduled to further their training until April 30.

Exercise Foal Eagle 2011 is carried out in the spirit of the Republic of Korea-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty signed Oct. 1, 1953.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

POHANG, South Korea — A Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 F/A-18 attaches itself to a Marine Refueler Transport Squadron 152 KC-130 to refuel its engines during an in-flight refueling mission off the coast here during a Foal Eagle 2011 training scenario March 26.

After disaster struck Japan, the MAG-12 units were challenged with continuing the exercise with fewer people and operating from two different locations while supporting the humanitarian efforts.

"We ended up completely changing our plan to where all the aircraft were in Iwakuni instead of here," said Kerr. "That is significant when you consider how you communicate with them and how you plan. We had to do it on the fly."

By the end of the exercise, 152 sorties were flown by aircraft operating out of MCAS Iwakuni and approximately 465 service

of an area and direct laser guided weapons to their targets. No live ordnance was used during the UAV training.

"This is the first time we've had a UAV squadron here for Foal Eagle," said Maj. Robert J. George, MAG-12 operations officer. "UAVs are being utilized more and more in the battlefield. The more we can train with the UAVs and understand how they operate and the more they can work with fixed wing and rotary aircraft, the better they are suited to go into Afghanistan and do it for real."

In the past, MAG-12 units conducted exercise Foal Eagle out