



# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 16 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Wake Island Avengers take on Japan: VMA-211 arrives for UDP

Lance Cpl. Jennifer Pirante  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12 welcomed Marine-Attack Squadron 211 into its hangars here April 6 as the squadron nears the end of its Western Pacific deployment.

The squadron arrived here as part of the Unit Deployment Program, a program implemented to allow the mobilization of units and squadrons to various countries throughout the Western Pacific for approximately six months.

VMA-211, also known as the Wake Island Avengers, arrived with eight AV-8B Harrier jets to carry out its mission to provide close-air support, armed reconnaissance and air-defense to support III Marine Expeditionary Forces as a forward deployed force in readiness.

VMA-211 is normally based out of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where it falls under the command of MAG-13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Staff Sgt. John Egner (left), Cpl. Joseph Quiroz (center), and Staff Sgt. Cornel Peters (right), ordnance technicians with Marine Attack Squadron 211 disarm an AV-8B Harrier jet on the flight line here April 12. VMA-211, also known as the Wake Island Avengers, arrived with eight jets to carry out its mission to provide close-air support, armed reconnaissance and air-defense to support III Marine Expeditionary Forces during simulated exercises.

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## Marines conduct tier 3 DADT repeal training

Lance Cpl. Jennifer Pirante  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

President Barack Obama signed The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act Dec. 22, 2010, which set the conditions for the repeal of the U.S. military's DADT policy. The law is slated to be repealed 60 days after the president, Secretary of defense and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff certify to Congress the law requirements have been met.

One vital repeal requirement is to ensure all military personnel execute training and implement changes in a manner consistent with readiness and unit cohesion, while treating all Marines and sailors with dignity and respect.

Marines of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron gathered to receive tier three

training for the implementation of the repeal of the DADT Policy in the Building 1 auditorium here Tuesday.

"This is a one-time only training," said Lt. Col. Mick Wagoner, station judge advocate. "Commanders have been tasked by the commandant to pass the word to all their Marines and sailors about the changes, which are coming when DADT has been repealed. We are all getting this training and the Marine Corps will be complete by May 31."

The purpose of the training was to inform all military personnel about the repeal and its potential effects on the Marine Corps, as well as reinforce expectations of exemplary conduct and professionalism from all Marines.

SEE REPEAL ON PAGE 3

## Sergeant Major moves on after 3 years of diligent caretaking

Cpl. Joseph Marianelli  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A sergeant major formerly assigned to Marine Barracks Washington, District of Columbia, is scheduled to assume the duties of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron senior enlisted advisor during a relief-and-appointment ceremony on the parade deck here 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral is slated to succeed Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, who is scheduled to become the senior enlisted advisor for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 in a relief-and-appointment ceremony scheduled here Friday.

After more than three years, Calvin has become a staple

around the halls of Building 1 and has been an instrumental part of the command team.

"He's been phenomenal. He's been everything I could possibly want in a sergeant major and more, absolutely my right hand man," Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, H&HS commanding officer, said. "There were times when both myself and the (executive officer) were out of pocket where he basically was in charge of the entire command deck and flawlessly made this squadron purr."

H&HS is a fairly unique squadron because of its role as the air station nucleus.

As a result of that uniqueness, Calvin has had to rise to the

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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## ‘Let gratitude be your attitude’

Cmdr. Dean L. Hoelz  
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.” (Psalms 9:1)

My best friend Larry has a saying; “Let gratitude be your attitude.” It was his mantra, which he was always ready to share with me, especially if I was telling him how bad my day was or what all was going wrong in my life.

At first I found his mantra simplistic and irritating, later I came to embrace it as my own.

Being grateful isn’t easy, especially if you are used to complaining like I was.

Larry used to say focus on the positive, not the negative. He taught me to practice writing

a gratitude list. He explained that a gratitude list, is simply writing down on a piece of paper everything you are grateful for in your life. He would always insist I fill up the paper, which at first seemed difficult, but with practice, it became easier.

Yes, I know this sounds simplistic, but sometimes we over-look the simple things in life.

On those days when I am feeling kind of down or negative, I still get out pen and paper, and write down everything for which I’m grateful.

I do it today because I know it works. Writing down a gratitude list from time to time has taught me two important lessons.

First, making a simple gratitude list frees me up from resentments, bitterness and anger.

Secondly, I learn that it is impossible to give thanks and to complain at the same time.

Maybe the psalmist had the same insight. When we give thanks with our whole being or our whole heart, there is no room for bitterness, self-pity or selfishness.

When we are giving thanks, there is no room for recounting the wrongs others have done to us.

Thank goodness we have a choice.

We can choose to be filled with gratitude or filled with bitterness.

Being grateful doesn’t necessarily change my life, relationships or circumstance, but it does change me! And when I see life, my relationships and circumstances through the eyes of gratitude, then I see with fresh insights, clarity and hope.

I move from being bitter to better. Let gratitude be your attitude.

## Did thought of government shutdown make you rethink importance of having emergency savings?

Bonnie Lewis  
PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGER

With all the stress last week over whether or not the government would shut down, it made me wonder if the people on the news saying they did not know what they would do without a full paycheck on April 15 had ever heard of an emergency savings account?

At every class, every brief, every one-on-one budget appointment, I stress the importance of having at least three months of base pay in a liquid account as a basic emergency savings account.

For civilians, it should be six months total pay. I encourage everyone to start small. Set up a transfer each paycheck and watch how quickly your money will grow.

Do not give yourself an ATM card that will access this emergency savings account or you will be tempted to take it right back out over the weekend while shopping or on a trip.

Set yourself up for success and avoid the stress of wondering how you are going to pay your bills should something happen in the future.

I know many organizations stepped up and offered support to federal workers including: Navy Federal, Hanscom Federal Credit Union, Belvoir Federal, Service Credit Union, Fort Knox FCU, etc.

Also, if you are an active duty service member,

you are covered under the Service Members Civil Relief Act.

Section 523 of title 50 App states if a service member on active duty is unable to perform an obligation arising under a contract; e.g. cannot make an automobile, rent or mortgage payment, and is charged a late fee or other similar penalty as a result, then a court may reduce or waive that fee if the ability to pay was materially affected by such military service.

If a service member misses a payment because of pay disruptions caused by the shutdown of the federal government, then the same above aforementioned section should provide relief.

Service members should contact their lenders or the other party to their contract or obligation and request relief under this section.

Contact your local legal assistance attorney if you cannot get this matter resolved.

Much of the stress many were feeling could have been avoided if they had an emergency savings account in place.

Remember, the account is there to protect you and your family during a financial emergency.

Make sure you come in, call or e-mail me to set up an appointment to make sure you are ready financially regardless of what the next financial emergency may be.

You can reach me at 253-6250 or by e-mail at bonnie.lewis@usmc.mil.

My office is in Building 411, room 201.

## MCAS Iwakuni welcomes VMA-211

ARRIVAL FROM PAGE 1

The Avengers have been deployed since Jan 3. with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS Essex, from which the squadron performed various international, joint-service exercises in unfamiliar amphibious and land environments.

“Operation Cobra Gold was definitely a challenge operating from ship and shore, but it was definitely a good experience,” said Capt. Adam Faul, AV-8B Harrier pilot with VMA-211. “We operated right off of the ship, which was definitely a good experience for both Marines on the ground and our pilots.”

Prior to VMA-211’s arrival here, the squadron also operated out of Kadena Air Base Okinawa, Japan, where the squadron took advantage of the opportunity to gain vital offensive air support training.

“Kadena was a great place to train because we got to drop a lot of live ordnance,” said Lt. Col. Bret Ritterby, VMA-211 commanding officer. “We got a lot of good training out of it.”

During the next evolution of VMA-211’s Western Pacific deployment, the squadron will fall under the command of MAG-12 and is to receive an ample amount of assistance from support elements such as Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 while in Iwakuni.

During deployment, squadron maintenance Marines have enjoyed Western Pacific tropical climates as opposed to the hot desert environment they are used to at home, said Cpl. Justin Reyes, VMA-211 fixed-wing aircraft airframes mechanic. “It is definitely not as hot out here as it is in Yuma.”

Maintenance Marines have also met every task expeditiously and efficiently to ensure peak level aircraft performance.

“We have got a lot of hard-working Marines,” Faul said. “Our Marines are doing awesome. Since we have been doing split operations, our aircraft have not all been in the same place, but our Marines have been sustaining the schedule as if they were. It is pretty impressive.”

While in Iwakuni, VMA-211 is slated to conduct air-to-air training as the Avengers gear up for their final UDP mission.

“We are also working on training an air combat tactics instructor,” Ritterby said. “That’s going to culminate when we go off to Lava Viper. We are going to do a live missile shoot out there.”

The Wake Island Avengers are slated to participate in Lava Viper 2011 in support of MAG-24, 1st MAW, at Marine Corps Air Facility Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

“I wanted to come back from deployment better trained and more capable than when we got here,” Ritterby said. “That’s our overall goal. For 65 percent of our Marines, this is their first deployment. I wanted to get Marines out to see as much of this part of the world as they can.”

VMA-211 is slated to wrap up its UDP deployment and return to Yuma, Ariz., at the end of June.

## Commanders give Marines the skinny about Don’t Ask Don’t Tell repeal

REPEAL FROM PAGE 1

“We talked a little bit about the background of how we got to where we are now, what the guidance has been as far as what we have been issued and mandated and mainly how it’s going to affect us as a service,” said Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, H&HS commanding officer.

Marine Administrative Message 108/11 was released Feb 11. to provide guidance for the training, which was broken down into three tiers.

Tier one training was implemented for military and Department of Defense personnel positioned at the expert and special staff level to include staff judge advocates, chaplains, recruiters, military law enforcement and equal opportunity advisors to advise subject matter experts about how to answer questions and concerns, which may come up about the repeal.

Tier two training was implemented to provide guidance and information for Marine commanders, senior enlisted advisors and civilian supervisors of Marines about the commander’s toolkit and how to relay the message to all enlisted personnel.

The commander’s toolkit provided guidance, talking points, briefs and references including the DADT video message released Jan. 28. by Gen. James E. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

Talking points focused on four main key points: leadership, professionalism, discipline and respect.

Coletta also relayed to his Marines a quote in a memo from the secretary of defense, dated Jan. 28.

“Strong engaged and informed leadership will

## H&HS says goodbye to motivated, dedicated sergeant major

RELIEF FROM PAGE 1

challenge of running the squadron time and time again.

“Without us, the air station doesn’t run or function,” said Coletta. “This monster continues to run twenty-four seven so you gotta creatively find ways to give your Marines (Professional Military Education), to ensure that all of our training is complete, to ensure that the word is disseminated, to ensure that folks get time out, and he’s been absolutely instrumental in a lot of that stuff, especially throughout recent Operation Tomodachi.”

“I think the enlisted really respond well to him; I think he’s well liked,” said Coletta. “He’s very effective in how he does; he can kinda walk into a situation or walk into a room and from his smiles and his presence he can just kinda light up the room.”

“That’s probably one of the biggest things I think I’ll miss about him,” he added.

As a more seasoned enlisted Marine in a command position, that same charisma spilled over into a fatherly role during Calvin’s tenure.

“Some of the same concerns I have for my own family I have for the members of H&HS,” he said. “I cared both personally and professionally.”

Although not indicative of the whole, Calvin’s presence and demeanor translated his

be required at every level in order to implement the repeal,” he said.

Until the official date of repeal, Title 10 United States Code, Section 654 and associated policies, otherwise known as DADT, are slated to remain in effect.

Policies slated to change pertain to accessions and separations, said Wagner.

Upon repeal of the DADT policy, sexual orientation will no longer be a factor in recruitment and retention. Lawful homosexual acts, statements or marriage will not be a bar for military service entry, continued service, nor grounds for discharge.

In spite of changes to DADT and associated policies, many Marine Corps policies are slated to remain the same.

All Marines will still be held to the standards of conduct of the Marine Corps and evaluations will continue to be based on merit, fitness and capability, said Coletta. “Everything we do has applicability in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

It’s the legal foundation which maintains good order and discipline.”

There are no plans to segregate facilities, quarters, berthing or practices based on sexual orientation or collect data based on sexual orientation.

Medical policies are not slated to change due to the repeal of DADT and will not be affected, said Coletta.

There are also no DoD sponsored co-location assignments or extended benefits for same-sex dual-military couples; however, service members are slated to be granted privacy protection applicable to information voluntarily provided by members such as beneficiary and emergency notification contact information.

devotion.

“Motivated,” said Lance Cpl. Michael Hicks, a legal administration clerk with the station Installation Personnel Administration Center. “Just the way he talks to his Marines, he’s interested; he takes care of Marines.”

Hicks’ sentiments were echoed by Coletta.

“He has a very rare and true genuine concern for the Marines and sailors of his squadron,” he said. “No matter what the case, no matter how big, how small, or what the issue, he is very, very eager to roll his sleeves up and to dive in and to do his absolute best for the benefit of the Marines and sailors who are under his tutelage.”

Calvin certainly sets the bar high and is an example to be followed and emulated.

“All E-9s are not created equal,” said Coletta. “Sgt. Maj. Calvin just blows the curve out of the water.”

To welcome the new sergeant major, Calvin had some words of caution, “Be careful when you do the stanky leg; it can be rough on the knees.”

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# MSG: Ambassadors in Blue

Lance Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine security guards, MSGs, Marine embassy guards, or embassy duty; whether called by their acronym or simply a variant of their official designation, these men and women are synonymous with protection and safeguarding.

The Foreign Service Act of 1946 officially established MSGs as entities within the Marine Corps. MSGs manned their first diplomatic post duties in 1949 in Bangkok and Tangier, Morocco. From then, MSGs have continued to grow in number and distribution around the world with numbers totaling more than 1,000 in 130 countries.

Master Sgt. Earl L. Legette, station Traffic Management Office distribution management chief, said the opportunity to travel as an MSG appeals to many junior Marines who apply. Legette, a former MSG and a Latta, S.C. native, did two 18-month tours in Bangkok and Damascus, Syria, from 2003 to 2006.

Posts are divided into three tiers. Tier one posts are considered the least dangerous posts. Places such as Frankfurt, Germany, and Brussels are examples.

Tier two posts, such as Bangkok, are considered slightly more high risk. Tier three posts are known as hardship posts. They are located in areas of the Middle East and Africa.

"Damascus was a hardship post," said Legette. "Believe it or not, Damascus was my best post. There was always something going on and something to keep you busy."

Safeguarding sensitive information within an embassy is an MSGs main priority; however, at times, MSGs may also have to execute extra duties.

MSGs help in the security detail of dignitaries whenever they come to visit. MSGs also may be called on in the event of a bomb threat, fire or any other high-risk emergency.

MSG training takes place at Marine Corps Base Quantico Va. MSGs must commit to a three year tour of duty. These tours involve stays of 18 months at two posts or 12 months at three posts. Marines between the rank of private first class to sergeant serve as watch standers. Marines from staff sergeant to master sergeant and first sergeant are designated as detachment commanders.

Marines must be able to obtain a top secret security clearance and have no visible tattoos in physical training gear. A high first-class Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test score are paramount to applying. Watch standers must have no dependents, whereas, detachment commanders can have up to four dependents.

"There isn't enough housing for a Marine with a family," said Staff Sgt. Mohammed B. Hossain, assistant northside mess hall manager. Hossain, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native, served a three year tour of duty with stints in Kampala, Uganda; Frankfurt, Germany; and Brussels.

Sergeants and below live in a single barracks together during their tour of duty as watch standers.

Career advancement can sometimes be found for Marines serving MSG duty. Just like other special duty assignments, MSG duty can help when

Marines go before meritorious boards or when putting together admission packets to become officers.

"It definitely offers you a chance to expand your career," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ambrosio V. Pantoja, station TMO distribution management officer. Pantoja, an El Mirage, Ariz., native, served as an MSG from February 1999 to November 2001 in Manila, Philippines; Rangoon, Burma; and Bangkok. "I had a lance corporal in my command when I was stationed as an MSG who meritoriously promoted from every rank to staff sergeant. When I ran into

him a few years later he was a gunnery sergeant."

Though, embassy duty is not as widely known as other special duty assignments. It is just as beneficial and necessary.

"It was the best time of my life," said Hossain. "I definitely would recommend this to other Marines wanting to further their career."

The Foreign Service Act made it possible for MSGs to exist today. When the position was established, their purpose was to safeguard embassies and American personnel. That hasn't changed much after nearly 70 years.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ambrosio V. Pantoja, station Traffic Management Office distribution management officer, and Master Sgt. Earl L. Legette, station TMO distribution management chief, pose with a guidon from their time as Marine security guards. Pantoja served as a MSG from 1999 to 2001 and Legette served from 2003 to 2006.

# Bulk fuel specialists pump ... aircraft up

Lance Cpl. Cayce Nevers  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Most jobs in the military are vital to keeping the Marine Corps operational. One job in the Marine Corps that continually allows the station to run smoothly is bulk fuel specialist.

"We are here to support all the squadrons with fuel," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan J. Combella, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 bulk fuel specialist.

Without bulk fuel Marines, the aircraft aboard the station would be unable to accomplish their missions.

"The air station would probably be able to operate; however, there would be no tactical deployments," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan M. Ward, MWSS-171 bulk fuel specialist. "(The aircraft) wouldn't be able to go anywhere without us."

When Operation Tomodachi began, the flight line would have been chaotic had it not been for bulk fuel Marines and other flight line workers.

With the operation in effect, bulk fuel specialists ensured the aircraft were properly fueled.

On a day-to-day basis, bulk fuel Marines refuel helicopters, F/A-18 Hornets, AV-8B Harriers and other aircraft.

As bulk fuel specialists, the Marines test fuel, set up fuel systems and fuel aircraft.

"Our job is important because if something goes wrong, the first thing they look at is the fuel," said Lance Cpl. Kelly B.

Marable, MWSS-171 bulk fuel specialist.

To ensure that doesn't happen, the Marines test the fuel daily. "We pull samples of the fuel, test it and make sure it is clean," said Marable.

Another important task the bulk fuel Marines must do is build the fuel systems they use. There are three different systems the Marines must become acquainted with during their six-week long military occupational specialty school.

The three systems are the Tactical Air Fuel Dispensing System, Ground Expedient Refueling System and Helicopter Expedient Refueling System.

Along with building the systems, the Marines must decide which system is best used for everything they are refueling.

The TAFDS is used to fuel the aircraft, the GERS is used to fuel ground equipment, and the HERS is used to fuel helicopters.

"Luckily, we have a lot of experience at our noncommissioned officer level, as well as a good staff, who knows what they are doing," said Combella.

When the Marines in the "hot pits," the aircraft fueling station here, receive a call that aircraft are coming, they head out to the partial TAFDS they have built and await the aircraft arrival.

When the aircraft gets into position, Marines run the fueling hose to the aircraft, hook it up and turn on the fuel.

On average, bulk fuel Marines



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Lance Cpl. Adam Cashin, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 bulk fuel specialist, turns the fuel open while checking the pressure as a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 F/A-18 Hornet is refueled. Without the fuel bulk fuel specialists provide, aircraft arriving and departing the air station would be unable to complete missions.

pump approximately 1.4 million gallons of fuel a year to more than 1,000 aircraft, said Sgt. Colter D. Plumhoff, MWSS-171 bulk fuel training NCO.

The bulk fuel Marines are faced with challenges they must overcome.

"It can be stressful when in

a 20-minute time frame, there are 15 birds and we only have four points to fuel them at," said Combella.

Without the bulk fuel specialists, the exercises and operations those aircraft participate in would not be possible.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Lance Cpl. Adam Cashin, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 bulk fuel specialist, runs the hose from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron F/A-18 Hornet to the pumps. On average, bulk fuel Marines pump approximately 1.4 million gallons of fuel a year.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Lance Cpl. Jonathan M. Ward, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 bulk fuel specialist, resets the pressure gauge before beginning the refueling process for an AV-8B Harrier. On a day-to-day basis, bulk fuel Marines refuel helicopters, F/A-18 Hornets, AV-8B Harriers and other aircraft to help ensure the aircraft get to the missions.



# Golf tournament sinks hole-in-one for Scouts

Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Forty Marines and station residents competed in the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Troop 77 Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 15.

The competitors were divided into four-man teams.

Each team started at a different hole to begin the tournament. All four players on each team had a chance to tee off at each hole and the ball that went the farthest was the ball that was played on.

Each team used the best ball method until the ball made it to the hole.

The championship came down to two teams that tied at 7-under-par. One player from each team faced off for the title in a putting match.

Whichever player could sink the ball first would win the title. Josh D. Bradford, a tournament competitor, was able to sink his ball in two putts; and Jamie L. Mohn, a tournament competitor, needed four putts, which allowed Bradford's team to take home the win.

Mike D. Cox, Troop 77 assistant Scout master, came up with the idea to have a golf tournament to raise money for the Scout's summer activities.

"We're doing this entirely for the Scouts," said Rodney L. Buentello, a tournament

competitor. "We will do anything to help the Scouts become better adults in life."

The troop leaders and Scouts drove around in a golf cart selling refreshments during the competition and interacted with the competitors.

"The knowledge the community leaders bestow upon the Scouts will help them become the future leaders of the world," said James T. Wentling, Troop 77 Scout master.

The tournament allowed the Scouts to build new relationships between the troop and leaders in the community.

"I think the golf tournament is a great way to get the Scouts and the community involved together," said Derrick R. Wentling, a Troop 77 Boy Scout.

The BSA's objective is to train young men into becoming successful adults through character development, responsible citizenship and self-reliance.

The Scouts participate in a variety of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations.

"People will pay for something they believe in," James Wentling said. "It's not really hard to sell what the Boy Scouts are all about."

Between the \$25 entry fee, food and beverage sales, the mini-putt and dunking booth the Scouts set up, the event raised more than \$1,500.



Brent Knickerbocker, a Troop 77 assistant Scout master, grills burgers and hotdogs for tournament competitors during the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 15. Between the \$25 entry fee, food and beverage sales, the mini-putt and dunking booth the Scouts set up, the event raised more than \$1,500 for summer activities the Scouts are scheduled to do.



Josh D. Bradford, a competitor, sinks the putt that won the overall title for his team during the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 15. Bradford sank his ball in two putts to take home the win for his team.



Taylor Marine, a Troop 77 Boy Scout, falls into the cold water of the Boy Scout dunk tank during the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 15. The dunk tank was one of the activities the Scouts used to help raise money and have fun in the process.



Joseph C. Dilg, a competitor, lines up his putt in the prone position during the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 15. Dilg laughed at the many putts it took to sink his ball on the green.



(LEFT) Chris M. Clark, a competitor, sets himself up to tee off during the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 15. Clark, the only regular golfer on his team, helped his teammates choose the right club for the right shot when they didn't know what to do.

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK



# CORPS NEWS

## HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



CPL. MARCO MANCHA  
MARJAH, Afghanistan — Sgt. Maj. Octaviano Gallegos, the battalion sergeant major for 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, plays with local Afghan children near the Marjah District Center here April 3.

# No suits, just combat boots

Cpl. Marco Mancha  
2ND MARINE DIVISION

**MARJAH, Afghanistan** — They might not wear the fancy black suits and matching ties like the secret service, but their mission to protect and serve remains the same.

The Personal Security Detachment Marines with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, provide support and coordinate travel for the battalion commander, Lt. Col. David Hudspeth, while escorting him throughout the unit's area of operations.

Most of the time, they don't know their mission until the day it takes place. The detachment can provide security for the battalion commander one day and distribute candy to afghan children or escort VIPs the next, such as Representative Nancy Pelosi, who visited the Marjah District Center last month.

"Our missions are very specific, and [there are] times when we need to adapt to the changes in our schedule," said Staff Sgt. Maximo Veliz, the 3/9 PSD commander.

The Marines' presence in the area also helps reinforce visible signs of security throughout southern Marjah and builds rapport with local citizens, a very different atmosphere from the insurgent stronghold of Marjah a year ago.

As progress continues to overcome insurgent activity in the area, the Marines remain always on high alert as they conduct escort missions along the small bridges and dirt roads. The gunners on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles are the "eagle eyes" for the team, scanning the terrain from turrets atop the armored behemoths. The vehicle operators maneuver along

narrow, cratered roads, and the dismount team Marines provide a safe perimeter that bristles with M4 assault rifles whenever Marines exit the MRAPs.

"We always have our heads on a swivel," said Cpl. Jarrod Knorr, a vehicle commander with the team. "We know the importance of each of our assigned tasks and take it seriously."

The PSD Marines have successfully executed more than 160 missions and combat patrols since deploying to Marjah in December 2010. They make their way from patrol base to combat outpost in convoys and foot patrols.

"We just love our job and going out on the missions every day," Veliz said.

He is responsible for 17 Marines in the PSD and making sure the battalion commander makes his way safely throughout the battle space that the "Striking 3/9" Marines cover. The battalion maintains the second largest area of operations within RCT-1, patrolling 250 square miles of central Marjah.

Although most of the PSD Marines come from an infantry background, the team also includes a few radio operators, Motor Transportation operators, and a Navy corpsman. Some have even gone through specialty schools to hone their marksmanship skills.

Like Marjah, the PSD Marines, along with the rest of 3/9, know they've come a long way since December and hope to maintain the safe place it has become. One Marine believes accomplishing that task never leaves a boring day for the PSD.

"I actually love the PSD," said Knorr, the 22-year-old Adrian, Mich., native. "I'm a Motor Transportation operator by trade, so going on these missions every day is great. There is no better feeling."



CPL. MARCO MANCHA  
MARJAH, Afghanistan — Cpl. Jarrod Knorr, a vehicle commander for 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, scans the distance for any sign of threats during a short foot patrol through here April 3. The Personal Security Detachment provides security for the battalion commander and VIPs visiting the units area of operation, while also building relationships with local citizens when they go out.



CPL. MARCO MANCHA  
MARJAH, Afghanistan — Marines with the Personal Security Detachment patrol outside a combat outpost and interact with Afghan children during a movement through here April 3. Although most of the PSD Marines come from an infantry background, the team also includes a few radio operators, Motor Transportation operators, and a Navy corpsman. Some have even gone through specialty schools to hone their marksmanship skills.

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

### Briefs

#### Marriage Enrichment Small Group

A marriage enrichment small group is scheduled to be held 6:30 p.m. in Building 936C every Monday. For more information, call chaplain Bruce West at 253-3371 or e-mail [bruce.b.west@usmc.mil](mailto:bruce.b.west@usmc.mil).

#### Emergency Preparedness for Family Members Course

The station safety center is offering a free voluntary noncombatant respirator course at 3:30 p.m. every other Wednesday until May 30. For more information or to sign up, call 253-6381.

#### Lending Locker Program

The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command-sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required. The lending locker is located in Building 411 Room 101. For more information call, 253-6161.

#### Mothers of Preschoolers Volunteer Opportunities

Mothers of Preschoolers is looking for volunteers to work with their

MOPPETS ages 0-5 years old. If you would like to help, call at 253-2031.

#### Crime Stoppers

To report a crime, call 253-3333. Callers can leave a detailed message without having to speak to a live person.

#### Fellowship Breakfast

Christian fellowship and group discussion breakfasts are scheduled 6:30 – 7:15 a.m. every Wednesday at the north side mess hall. For more information, call chaplain Bruce West at 253-3371 or John Cordero at 253-5301 or 080-3217-3205.

#### PMO Lost and Found

Contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the installation. Examples may include: Cell phones, keys, digital cameras, bicycle helmets, etc. To recover lost items or for more information, call 253-4929.

#### NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living

expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

#### Americable Activation

Americable is scheduled to begin service activation in certain areas of the base. Tune in to channel 37 for more information or stop by the Americable office in the Crossroads mall.

#### Temporary Mess Hall

Building 240 is designated as a temporary mess hall. Hours of operation are 6 – 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Friday. The special shuttle bus will continue to run during the dinner and dinner/brunch meal periods. A sandwich bar is also available 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

### Jobs

#### Commissary Merchandiser

SARVIS Inc. is currently looking for a part-time commissary merchandiser, 48-hours per month. Workplace is Iwakuni Commissary/ DeCA CDC. Experience in retail or commissary merchandising is

preferred. For more information, e-mail Mr. More at [tmore\\_sarvis@yahoo.com](mailto:tmore_sarvis@yahoo.com).

#### English Teachers

Two positions are available to teach English in Tokuyama every Friday 6 – 8 p.m. For more information, call 253-6868.

#### Travel Counselor

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

### Vehicles

#### 1989 Mazda Luce

JCI due October 2011. Vehicle has very low mileage, 47,000 KM, Second owner, asking for \$970 or best offer for more information. Call work 253-6678, home 253-2183, cell phone 080-6612-9201 or 090-9105-9401.

### Miscellaneous

#### V.Smile Deluxe TV learning System

In great condition, includes console, two joysticks, one AC adapter and seven Smart ridges games. All for \$20 OBO. Call 253-2798.

#### Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified ad, send an e-mail to [iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil](mailto:iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil). Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you wish to be published. You may submit brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or call 253-5551. Ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

## Road Tax Due April 2011

You must have your title to pay tax

Road Tax must be paid by April 30 to drive

All payments must be made in Yen.

### Heavy Vehicle Information

Plate:	Cost:
100Y	¥ 32,000
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E	more than 4,501cc ¥ 22,000
329Y, 330Y, 331Y	less than 4,501cc ¥ 19,000
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y, 529Y, 530Y, 531Y, 500E	¥ 7,500

■Heavy Vehicles will pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Parking is free in the rear of the building.

■Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to the pass and registration section of the PMO building, to receive your new base decal:

- Japanese title, secondary insurance, the vehicle or motorcycle, Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), SOFA license and AFID card, recycling fee receipt and new road tax receipt.

### Light vehicle and motorcycle information

Plate:	Cost:
50A, 40A, 580A	¥ 3,000
YAMA A, B	¥ 1,000
IWAKUNI A, B, C	¥ 500

■Light Vehicles and motorcycles will pay road tax on the second floor of City Hall located across from the police station from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Parking is free.

■Maps to the new Symphonia building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO pass and registration section. For any other questions, contact pass and registration at 253-3135.

■To avoid the long lines of the "last minute rush" at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal early in April.

■April 29 the PMO pass and registration section will only be open for renewing decals. No other business will take place during this time.

**Failure to pay road tax can result in the impoundment of your vehicle.**



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 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)

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

**Latter Day Saints**  
Tuesday 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



Lance Cpl. Felix Ventura (left), Lance Cpl. Travis Carlson, fixed-wing aircraft mechanics with Marine Attack Squadron 211, perform maintenance on an AV-8B Harrier jet on the flight line here April 11. VMA-211 arrived here as part of the Unit Deployment Program, a program implemented to allow the mobilization of units and squadrons to various countries throughout the Western Pacific for approximately six months. Have your own photo to submit? Submit 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

**Friday, April 22, 2011**  
7 p.m. The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13)  
*Premier*  
10 p.m. Hall Pass (R)

**Saturday, April 23, 2011**  
1 p.m. Gnomeo and Juliet (G)  
4 p.m. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (PG)  
7 p.m. Beastly (PG-13)  
*Premier*

**Sunday, April 24, 2011**  
1 p.m. Hop (PG)  
*Premier*  
4 p.m. The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Beastly (PG-13)  
*Premier*

**Monday, April 25, 2011**  
7 p.m. The Eagle (PG-13)  
*Last Showing*

**Tuesday, April 26, 2011**  
7 p.m. Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (PG-13)

**Wednesday, April 27, 2011**  
7 p.m. I Am Number Four (PG-13)

**Thursday, April 28, 2011**  
7 p.m. The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13)

*The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check [www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura](http://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](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.**

IYAOYAS game fizzles against G-SUPP

Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

G-SUPP crushed IYAOYAS 56-25 during a 2011 Intramural Basketball Season game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here April 12.

Christopher Flores, IYAOYAS center, snatched the toss up from Kyle Strausbach, G-SUPP center.

G-SUPP rebounded after a brick shot by the IYAOYAS.

The ball went back and forth until Steve Navar, G-SUPP power forward, sank a shot from downtown to put the first three points on the board.

William Chatman, G-SUPP small forward, got fouled on a conversion and was two for two coming off the line putting the score 5-0.

Navar grabbed a rebound and assisted with the next two layups to give G-SUPP a nine-point lead within the first six minutes of the game.

The G-SUPP defense didn’t back down with the early lead.

“Our focus in practice is defense, defense and more defense,” said Chatman. “We put pressure on the ball, get rebounds and run the ball down court for that basket.”

The G-SUPP defense pressured the IYAOYAS into a 13-0 deficit.

Anthony Friedrich, IYAOYAS point guard, determined not to get shut out, finally put the IYAOYAS on the board with a layup.

Possession changed hands for the next few minutes with both teams’ players giving it their all.

Larry Guerrero, IYAOYAS power forward, got a break for his team making the score 15-4.

Chatman charged the court with a vengeance and sank another jump shot with five minutes left in the first half.

A few plays later, a foul shot added to the G-SUPP score.

“Offense is second nature,” said Rabosky Tanner, G-SUPP point guard. “The main thing to do is to get defensive baskets. Anyone can score on offense, but as long as you can stop their drive and get those defensive baskets you can’t lose.”

Guerrero sank another basket, keeping the IYAOYAS barely alive.

Antwain Burns, IYAOYAS forward guard, made a 3-pointer, setting the score at 23-9.

Navar sank another bucket from downtown at three minutes left in the first half.

Burns drove down court only to have Chatman snatch Burns missed shot. Chatman put two points on the board after Burns grabbed the net in an attempt to block Chatman’s shot. The referee called basket interference, putting the score at 28-11.

With 50 seconds left in the first half, Navar stole the ball and sunk another 3-pointer.

The IYAOYAS’ Flores was fouled but could only get one bucket at the free-throw line.

Strausbach ended the first half with a 3-pointer making the score 34-12.

The IYAOYAS had possession at the start of the second half. Burns sank a jump shot, but Navar came back with a 3-pointer.

Possession went back and forth until Chatman stole the ball and sank a basket setting the score at 39-14.

Guerrero shot a brick allowing the G-SUPP defense to capitalize on the rebound with a layup.

The IYAOYAS offense started to get more breaks, but G-SUPP never let up. At 10 minutes and 22 seconds, the score was 48-21 in favor of G-SUPP.

The next few minutes showcased free throws, layups and a 3-pointer by both teams’ offenses shooting the score to 54-25.

“They got a really good jump on us,” said



Christopher Flores, IYAOYAS center, snatches the toss up from Kyle Strausbach, G-SUPP center during a 2011 Intramural Basketball Season game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here April 12. Strausbach and the other G-SUPP players proved they owned the court with a 56-25 win.



Christopher Rios, IYAOYAS point guard, sets himself up to guard Zach Host, G-SUPP shooting guard, as Host brings the ball into enemy territory during a 2011 Intramural Basketball Season game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here April 12. G-SUPP destroyed the IYAOYAS 56-25.

Matthew Lowry, IYAOYAS head coach. “We tried to salvage a little bit of the game, but my guys were getting tired out there.”

With two minutes and two seconds left in the game, Navar sank the last layup.

The referee called the mercy rule into effect, and ended the game 56-25 in favor of G-SUPP.

The mercy rule ends a game when one team

is winning by 30 or more points in under eight minutes left in the game.

“It was a pretty tough game,” said Burns. “The game didn’t work out for us this night. Hopefully, it will work out for our next game.”

The IYAOYAS and G-SUPP are slated to battle again Monday.

Mess Hall Menu

**Monday**  
Cream of mushroom soup, Creole soup, sauerbraten, hot and spicy chicken, fried rice, oven glow potatoes, fried zucchini, calico corn, dinner rolls, potato salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, congo bars, double layer marble cake with buttercream frosting and blueberry crunch.

**Tuesday**  
Cream of potato soup, chicken noodle soup, southern fried chicken, barbecue beef cubes, steamed rice, buttered pasta, black eye peas, Creolesquash, cornbread, macaroni salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, spice cake with buttercream frosting and lemon meringue pie.

**Wednesday**  
Cream of broccoli soup, vegetable soup, tempura fish, pepper steak, steamed rice, oven glow potatoes, glazed carrots, club spinach, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, double layer devil’s food cake with buttercream frosting and cheese cake.

**Thursday**  
Tomato soup, cream of chicken soup, baked ham, macaroni and tomatoes, fried shrimp, fettuccine noodles, alfredo sauce, grilled cheese sandwich, tempura vegetables, peas and carrots, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, German tomato salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, strawberry shortcake and vanilla cream pie.

**Friday**  
Clam chowder, minestrone soup, braised beef and noodles, baked fish, mashed potatoes, fried cabbage, mixed vegetables, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, banana bread, shortbread cookies, Dutch apple pie.



# Station children tee off at Junior Golf Camp

Cpl. Claudio A. Martinez  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In 1986, then Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger designated each April as the Month of the Military Child to recognize the sacrifices the children of service members also make for their country. According to the Department of Defense website, commands are encouraged to plan activities in support of the Month of the Military Child that will benefit the development and growth of military children.

Following suit, the Torii Pines Golf Course here hosted the annual Junior Golf Camp in support of The Month of The Military Child April 12.

The three-day camp involved approximately 35 children ages 8-12 and went until April 14.

"This is about making the kids comfortable on the golf course," said Paul Hahn, Torii Pines Golf Course manager. After participating in the camp, the children will be confident enough to play on any golf course no matter what base they get stationed, he added.

During the first day, the children rotated through different stations learning the basics of putting, swinging the golf club and chipping the ball into the hole. On the second day, they played on the golf course and learned the rules and etiquette involved in the game. The children ended the camp on the third day with a golf competition.

"If they start to play the game now at this age, we hope by the time they get in high school and college, they'll be good enough to

play on a golf team," said Hahn.

Hahn added, he's never met a golfer who didn't want to start playing golf earlier and he wants to give the children here that chance.

Aside from learning the basics of golf, the camp offered the children a chance to interact with other children their own age with similar interests and experiences.

Kimberly Melin, a station resident, said her 10-year-old daughter, Paige, jumped at the chance to participate in the camp.

"She golfs with her dad, but if she can also do it with kids her own age, it's even better," said Melin. "They are so limited to what they can do here. I think any opportunity the base has where the kids can come out and interact with each other is great."

Michael Yanosky, a 12-year-old golf camp attendee, was one of the many children who appreciated what the camp offered.

Yanosky said he's only played golf three times before and felt he was able to improve his putting skills and really enjoyed the lessons on the driving range during the camp.

"I think this is a good way to support Month of the Military Child because maybe all these people have parents that are in the military and they get a chance to hang out and kind of share their experiences," said Yanosky. "They can also just share their experiences in playing golf."

The Torii Pines Golf Course hours are seasonal. Patrons can call 253-3402 to set a tee time. Junior golf club rentals for children ages 8-17 are free but must pay a green fee of \$5 to play all day.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Kia Craven, a 7-year-old Junior Golf Camp attendee, practices her putting skills during a three day golf camp hosted at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 13. Approximately 35 local children attended the golf camp.



(CENTER) Yosuko Nishimura, a Torii Pines Golf Course specialist, explains the rules and etiquette involved with playing golf during a Junior Golf Camp hosted at the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 13. The camp focused on making the children knowledgeable and comfortable enough to play on the golf course.

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ