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Service members hit balls to raise money | P. 11

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 24 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Marines, Air Force train together to refuel

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**KADENA AIR BASE, Japan** — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 pilots and weapon systems operators conducted aerial refueling training with Air Force KC-135 Strato-tankers here June 13.

SEE **REFUELING** ON PAGE 3

## MAG-12, MAWTS-1 mitigate MDTC risks

CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**KADENA AIR BASE, Japan** — Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 instructors continued to implement operational risk management during the Marine Division Tactics Course here June 13 as the course completed final week.

The goal of MDTC is to provide the aircrew and Marine Air Intercept Controllers with ground and

SEE **RISK** ON PAGE 3

## 35th Marine commandant visits air station



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, (right), answers questions from Combat Logistics Company 36 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 during a town hall meeting at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here June 15. Amos and Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, 17th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, visited the air station during a seven-day tour of the Pacific Theater. During their visit, Amos and Barrett met with the Marines and sailors here during multiple town hall meetings to discuss their guidance and to answer questions.

## Station C0 receives letter of appreciation from Iwakuni city mayor



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Yoshihiko Fukuda, Iwakuni city mayor, presents Col. James C. Stewart, station commanding officer, with a letter of appreciation at the Iwakuni cityhall, June 13, for the station's contribution during Operation Tomodachi. Operation Tomodachi was the joint relief effort conducted by the U.S. and Japanese government to help the victims of the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that shook northern Japan March 11.

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Iwakuni city presented the station's commanding officer with a letter of appreciation for the station's contribution to Operation Tomodachi at the Iwakuni city-hall June 13.

Yoshihiko Fukuda, Iwakuni city mayor, presented the letter of appreciation to Col. James C. Stewart, station commanding officer, on behalf of the city.

Operation Tomodachi was the joint humanitarian relief effort conducted by the U.S. and Japanese government to help the victims of the 9.0 magnitude earthquake, tsunami and subsequent aftershocks that struck the northern region of Japan March 11.

"The commanding officer of MCAS Iwakuni played a big role in leading Operation Tomodachi

here," said Fukuda through a translator. "We greatly appreciate what he did, and that is why I gave this letter of appreciation to him on behalf of the citizens of Iwakuni. This type of daily communication between the base and the city will deepen the bond between the U.S. and Japan."

Fukuda visited Toshimi Kitazawa, Japan Defense Minister, a few weeks ago to report on Operation Tomodachi.

Fukuda said the defense minister also wished to express his appreciation for Stewart's leadership and the station's actions in support of Operation Tomodachi.

The letter of appreciation thanked Stewart for his and the station's role during Operation Tomodachi and commended him for his dedication to the growing relationship between the station community and the Iwakuni city government.

Stewart said the letter of appreciation is a wonderful tribute to

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# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## 'Spiritual Readiness'

LT. J.G. TRAVIS COFFEY  
MAG-12 DEPUTY  
CHAPLAIN

It was Napoleon Bonaparte who once said, "There are only two forces in the world, the sword and the spirit. In the long run, the sword will always be conquered by the spirit."

This month we have been blessed to have some of our country's finest leaders on deck here at MCAS Iwakuni. Last week the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Amos was here and took the opportunity to share with us four of his top priorities.

One of the top four priorities was keeping the faith with our Marines and sailors.

Keeping the faith in the midst of a very busy forward deployed duty station and being far away from home can be quite challenging.

Many stationed here are unaccompanied and are often isolated and alone.

Many times we find ourselves overwhelmed with tasks, appointments and assignments that we can't even see past this week for the next. In other words, sometimes we can't see the amazing forest around us because we can't see past the tree in front of us.

The busy life-style our mission requires of us often drains us of our energies and many times we find ourselves trying to push forward on an empty tank.

Friends, in order for us to keep the faith, we have to continually reinvest in ourselves by refueling our spiritual tanks - so that we can be ready for whatever awaits us.

If there is one thing we know here at MCAS Iwakuni, it is the concept of "combat readiness." But to be combat ready, another readiness concept is necessary - spiritual readiness.

So, what is spiritual readiness? One mentor of spiritual readiness

is Lt. Col. Ray Murray who commanded the 5th Marines at the Chosin Reservoir.

Reflecting on leadership during the fighting withdrawal from this hellish deathtrap he said, "I personally felt in a state of shock, the kind of shock one gets from some great personal tragedy, the sudden loss of someone close. My first fight was within myself. I had to rebuild that emptiness of spirit."

The rebuilding Murray refers to is replenishing the spirit. He was referring to his own spiritual life and how important it was to keep that aspect of his life intact in spite of the chaos surrounding him. That is what spiritual readiness means.

Spirituality begins when a person searches for religious faith. Then, spirituality should drive one toward a pursuit of displaying a life of integrity (my favorite leadership trait).

Spiritual readiness also renders a Marine or sailor capable of coping with any crisis. It is having an inner self that is tough without being

cold. It is an aspect of leadership that is as important as physical readiness or training.

Spiritual readiness is the bedrock upon which the concepts of honor, courage and commitment are built.

Bottom line is, we can have the best equipment the world has ever seen, but if our people are not ready to operate it, our mission will fail.

That is what Napoleon Bonaparte meant by the sword will always be conquered by the spirit.

So, while you're always preparing professionally to be ready and knocking out all the tasks on your daily list, remember to invest in your spiritual readiness too. Catch a chapel service, or observe a religious activity outside of our base.

Find ways to refuel your spirit so you're ready for whatever lies ahead. Let us be ready to care for and serve others around our community who are struggling and walking through a valley of life's difficulties. Let us all strive to do what we can to keep the faith with our Marines and sailors.

## Outdoor sports safety

### Bicycle Safety

While broken bones heal, a head injury can lead to death or permanent disability. Each year, nearly 70,000 bicyclists suffer serious head injuries. Many never fully recover. Every bicyclist needs the protection that a good bicycle helmet provides. Of course, a helmet can't keep a bicyclist from falling, but it can cut the chances of serious brain injury. Researchers say that bicycle helmets can prevent three out of four serious cycling head injuries. That's a worthwhile investment for any bicyclist, young or old. And, while bicycle helmets cost money, what they protect is priceless: the bicyclists' life and future. Head injury rehabilitation is a very costly and difficult challenge. Compared with such costs, a bicycle helmet is a good bargain. Starting a new safety habit can be hard both for the individual and for the group.

That was true when they brought in hockey helmets, football helmets, motorcycle helmets, and many other protective measures. It's true now of bicycle helmets.

But times are changing. Today, several million people own and wear helmets each time they ride their bicycles.

Helmets are cool - Wear your Helmet!

We can make bicycling safer for all by observing the following safety tips:

- Always wear a helmet
- Obey all traffic controls
- Ride your bicycle near the left-hand edge of the road
- Never carry another person on your bicycle
- Always use hand signals when turning or stopping
- Look out for cars at cross street, driveways and parking places
- Be careful when checking traffic, and don't swerve when looking over your shoulder
- Give pedestrians the right-of-way
- Keep your bicycle in good condition
- Always ride carefully

Remember, a bicycle is a vehicle. Bicyclists share a complex traffic environment with other larger forms of transportation. Youngsters under age nine lack the physical and mental development to interact safely in that environment.

SEE **SAFETY** ON PAGE 9

## Marines take steps to train safely during MDTC

**RISK** FROM PAGE 1

airborne instruction in the doctrine, tactics and weapons considerations for the successful employment of Marine fighter attack aircraft in a complex air-to-air environment.

Command selected F/A-18 pilots and weapon systems operators from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 533, 225 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 314 and 232 are slated to graduate Tuesday.

MAG-12 played a vital role to ensure the safety of all the Marines under its charge including squadrons and maintenance personnel.

"Our major role was to identify risks and support operations," said Maj. Anthony Baggs, MAG-12 safety officer.

"We looked at issues and advised the commanding officers. Once we identify risks, we took a course of action to mitigate the risks. It's very important to training," he added.

MAG-12, MAWTS-1 and MDTC students worked together to identify hazards, their causes and to implement controls a over the entire operation.

Hazards included hypothetical incidents during flight operations, foreign object debris on the flight line and liberty risks.

It's everyone's responsibility to mitigate such risks, said Baggs.

According to Maj. Bennedict G. Buerke, MAWTS-1 MDTC instructor, operational risk management is a huge component of basic fighter maneuvers as well.

"Operational risk management is simply asking, 'How do I get the most amount of training out of what I am doing that day, be as tactical as possible but also not cross the margin into an unsafe area?'" said Buerke. "We are teaching them to really toe that line"

When conducting simulated basic fighter maneuvers, it is important for pilots to understand the power and capabilities of their aircraft to ensure it is handled with safety and care.

Dog-fighting, a term popularized during World War II, has changed over time in the way aviators implement planning and execution of various basic fighter maneuvers.

"In terms of operational risk management, I have to understand not just where my aircraft is pointed but also where it is going and be able to de-conflict from the other aircraft, which may also be at that depleted air state," said Buerke.

During World War II, most military aircraft were monoplanes with limited basic fighter maneuver capability compared to the modern, all-weather, various weapons capable F/A-18 fighter jet designed to attack targets in

the air as well as on the ground.

"World War II was a very level-playing fight where whoever could turn the fastest would win," said Buerke. "Now-a-days, we actually use geometry in a three-dimensional platform, so it is no longer a two-dimensional fight."

ORM becomes especially important because Marines have to consider not only the capabilities of their own aircraft, but also the capabilities of other platforms.

MAG-12 command elements, MAWTS-1 instructors and aviation students brief every day prior to conducting flight missions to implement proper planning of simulated scenarios and possible situations.

"The point of this dog-fighting exercise is to access and predict what a student might do, which might potentially cause an unsafe situation and to think two or three steps ahead to prevent that," said Buerke. "They will instantaneously see that scenario or that situation developing and prevent a close pass, potentially hitting the ground or potentially hitting another aircraft."

Since this is the first time MDTC has been conducted outside of the continental U.S., Marines were also faced with training in an unfamiliar environment. Marines were able to mitigate all risks to ensure a successful mission during MDTC.

### APPRECIATION FROM PAGE 1

the friendship that has deepened between the U.S. and Japan and stands as a strong testament to the security alliance.

Due to its strategic location and air and sea port capabilities, the station served as a logistical and resupply hub during Operation Tomodachi.

Several American and Japanese aerial and sea-faring units from here and around the Pacific Theater conducted daily missions to northern Japan exporting water, clothes and other supplies to help the afflicted victims of the earthquake and tsunami.

Also, during Operation Tomodachi approximately 300 station residents gathered more than 1,900 boxes filled with do-

nations from the local residents weighing more than 11,200 pounds.

Stewart said it is because of the relationship and combined efforts of the U.S. and Japanese community, militaries and government that the station can provide the support it does.

Operation Tomodachi officially ended June 1.

## MALS-12 Marines, sailors bring friendship, laughter to local Japanese kindergarten school

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 headquarters Marines and sailors play games with the children of Marifu Hoikuen, a kindergarten school in downtown Iwakuni June 16. MALS-12 and MAG-12 plans visits to various schools each month to help strengthen the bonds of friendship between the station and the surrounding community. During their visits, the Marines and sailors play games with the children that help improve the children's English and counting skills. Any station resident wanting to attend a future community relations project can contact Navy Lt. J.G. Travis Coffey, MAG-12 deputy chaplain and MALS-12 chaplain at 253-6106 or 253-3971.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

## Air Force refueling missions keep Marines battle ready

**REFUELING** FROM PAGE 1

Aerial refueling extends the range of fighter aircraft on transits across great distances, increasing the operability of pilots and weapon systems operators to complete missions and training operations.

"Aerial refueling is the only reason we can go from operation to operation in the western Pacific," said Maj. Douglas Glover, a VMFA(AW)-533 F/A-18 weapon systems operator.

The F/A-18 has enough fuel for approximately an hour and a half of flight time.

Without the aerial refueling, the aircraft would not be able to fly from the continental U.S. to the Western Pacific. Aerial refueling has become a standardized operation throughout the military to ensure there are no conflicts with the various aircraft attempting to refuel from the same tanker.

The pilots communicate with each other to know who is refueling and how much fuel the jets can receive. The aircraft take turns approaching the tanker, refueling, detaching and re-forming to continue operations.

The most commonly used aircraft for aerial refueling is the Air Force's KC-135s, but the Marine Corps is capable of aerial refueling with its KC-130s. The KC-130s are often busy due to operational commitments.

"The Air Force really does a lot of the leg work to help us out here," said Capt. Phillippe C. Brule, a VMFA(AW)-533 pilot. "We say they need to be at this place at this time, and they usually get there early to do their pre-fueling checks. By the time we get there, they are ready to go."

The Air Force and Marine Corps plan months prior to operations to ensure the Air Force KC-135s will be at the right place at the right time.

The pilots who operate the aircraft and the refueling probe go through simulated training and a real world qualification for aerial refueling while the weapon systems operators attend to the logistics of the refueling process, said Brule.

Re-qualifying for both day and night aerial refueling prior to long term operations in combat zones and training operations is another reason this training is essential for pilots.

"We requalify on the KC-135 because it is the hardest aircraft to link up with to refuel in the air," said Capt. Matthew D. Humphries, a VMFA(AW)-533 weapon systems operator.

One of the most common challenges pilots face during aerial refueling is steadying the aircraft during refueling.

Aerial refueling preparation and training continues to provide interoperability between the Marine Corps and the Air Force to ensure the mission gets done.



# OPSEC: *National security starts with you*

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

OPSEC is a process to deny potential enemies information about capabilities and/or intentions by identifying, controlling and protecting unclassified information that gives evidence of the planning and execution of sensitive activities.

- OPSEC is a five step process:
- Identify your critical information
  - Analyze your threat
  - Analyze your vulnerabilities
  - Assess your risk
  - Employ appropriate protective measures

Critical information are the secrets of an organization, that if known to the enemy, can weaken or defeat an operation. Critical information usually is, or should be, classified or protected as sensitive unclassified information.

- Examples of critical information are:
- Troop movements
  - Logistical capabilities and limitations
  - Military capability
  - Location
  - Fleet of ships and aircraft
  - Facilities design
  - Security vulnerabilities
  - Personally identifiable information
  - Law enforcement activities
  - Management decisions

- Ways to protect critical information:
- Shred all papers with account information, social security numbers, addresses, phone numbers and anything that can be used to steal your identity.
  - Don't leave your ID card around. Your ID cards can give access to government information.

Potential adversaries gather as much information about you to create a profile about you or your command. The following ways are how potential adversaries gather information about you. They first look for OPSEC indicators. OPSEC indicators are actions and sources of information which

enemy intelligence can detect, obtain and then interpret to procure critical information. They then associate certain information to you. Association refers to the relationship of an indicator to other information or activities about you.

They then observe differences in normal activity. It's up to you to not allow potential adversaries to gather this information.

The Anti-Terrorism Force Protection office already takes preventive measures to protect OPSEC such as dumpster diving for critical information.

Terrorism has recently become the most significant threat to our way of life.

Adversaries will continually look for and find any weak links or vulnerabilities.

In order to determine your commands and your own vulnerabilities, you must continually analyze how you conduct operations.

Ways to protect from becoming vulnerable:

- Do not give away information regarding operations.
- Countermeasures need to be developed that eliminate the vulnerabilities, threats or utility of the information to the adversaries.

Other ways to practice OPSEC:

- Stop the delivery of newspaper, so they don't pile up outside if gone.
- Ask a trusty neighbor or friend to pick up mail so the mailbox doesn't fill up indicating you are gone.
- Connect porch and inside lights to a timer so they go on at preset times
- Connect a radio to a timer so it comes on at various times.
- Avoid patterns.
- Create confusion about intentions, operations, times and tactics to be employed.

PRACTICE COMMON SENSE AND INCLUDE OPSEC IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINES!!!!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Resources used for this article include Marine Corps order 3070.2, information from the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection office, and website <http://www.osc.doc.gov/osy/PDF/DOCOPSEC.pdf>*

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## M.C. Perry High School graduates celebrate new beginnings

Twenty-two Matthew C. Perry High School seniors cheer as they hold their diplomas in their hands, turn their tassels to the left and become the graduating class of 2011 during their graduation ceremony at the Sakura Theater here June 15. The following students graduated from M.C. Perry High School this year: Sean Barker, Charlene Brown, James Chambers, Kelli Clark, Joshua Clausen, Tyesha Clayton, Julie Cordero, Austin Cox, Marcus Crawford, Christine Dunn, Cole Gilmer, Harley Kim-Hahn, Nicolas Krenek, Hayden Miller, Tyra Morgan, Samantha Niemann, Ashley Perez, Bryant Ray, Bre'Onna Ray, Aaron Roman, Ryan Schmidt, Samantha Van Allen, Dims Wakimoto.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

# MALS-12 helps rebuild devastated community



PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNNERY SGT. FABIO L. SALAS

HIGASHIMATSUSHIMA, Japan- This was the scene awaiting Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marines who went to help with relief efforts May 20 - 29 after the devastating tsunami ravaged much of the northeastern coastal region. Several Marines voluntarily used some of their own personal leave to go help with disaster relief. The Marines helped clear away debris and restore residential houses in the area.

## Marines, sailors take leave to build homes, clean, give hope

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

The passengers on the bus are silent as they ride through the city. Their faces have no expression. No words can describe the scene around them. Houses leveled by boats several hundred yards from the port; cars overturned; a thick, grimy sludge covering everything in the vicinity. An entire city laid to waste by nature's wrath. This was the scene before Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 volunteers.

The city of Higashimatsushima was one of several towns and cities hit by the tsunami on March 11. One out of every 24 people who lived in the city was killed.

"No one said anything during the trip," said Gunnery Sgt. Fabio L. Salas, MALS-12 squadron gunnery sergeant. "It was just so overwhelming. I can't describe it."

Almost three months have passed since the devastating earthquake and tsunami ravaged the northeastern coastline of Japan. Operation Tomodachi, a joint operation that provided disaster and humanitarian relief, came about in response to the fallout from the double devastation.

Operation Tomodachi has officially ended but the relief effort to restore many of the cities along the coast continues in the form of volunteer efforts.

Thirteen Marines from MALS-12 volunteered their personal leave to help in Higashimatsushima.

Salas said when the request for volunteers came through, he wasn't surprised by the number of volunteers.

"I was more surprised by the ranks," said Salas. "When I saw it was a quite a bit of money, I thought it would probably be sergeants and (staff noncommissioned officers) volunteering; people who can afford to do it and who have enough leave. So when I saw lance corporals and corporals, who don't make as much money or have much leave, it definitely surprised me and showed me how much commitment we had to the job."

\$9,000 was raised for the Marines. \$7,000 was used to provide transportation for the Marines in the form of a roundtrip bus to Higashimatsushima. The other \$2,000 was used to cover tools and supplies. The volunteers also spent their own money and personal leave to help. The volunteer trip even cut into the Marines' Memorial Day weekend.

"Everyone who volunteered took personal leave to go up there," said Sgt. Andrew R. Feldon, a MALS-12 ground support equipment electrician. "Everyone understood what was being asked of them. Everyone understood it would eat into our (Memorial Day) weekend."

The volunteers worked for five days but were there for nine total. The volunteers were surprised by the lack of perceived destruction in the area when they first arrived. Collapsed buildings, flipped cars and general disarray of the city didn't become apparent until they

moved closer to the coastline.

"I didn't think it was as bad until we took a trip closer to the coastline," said Feldon. "I saw the full extent of the devastation. It was overwhelming to believe how much could be washed away in an instant."

The volunteers set about collecting debris and clearing away a thick, black sludge that covered many buildings, cars and fields.

The Marines had to rip up floor boards in order to clear away the sludge beneath residential houses.

"We were getting all the mud and sludge underneath the houses," said Cpl. Jeffrey D. Burke, A MALS-12 ground support electrician. "Guys were crawling underneath houses to get it out. That's why the floor boards were coming up. It was everywhere. It was in the garden and drains. The plants were starting to die because it was damaging the soil."

Thirty houses were cleared and cleaned throughout the nine days the volunteers were there. Quitting time varied from house to house, depending on what all was involved in the cleanup.

"We worked on a job until it was finished, making sure we got as much cleaned up as possible," said Burke. "There were a few days when we worked late."

Some residents were surprised by the outpouring of help the Marines showed as they worked to clear away debris. The Marines were in turn humbled by the resident's appreciation for their efforts.

"Looking at the overall damage, it feels like we just threw a

pebble into the Mississippi River," said Burke. "In one hand it feels like we didn't do much, but in the other hand, if you look on the personal level of the people, it was astronomical how much we were able to help. There was an elderly couple who kept saying thank you over and over. They told our translator they didn't know of a way to be able to thank us because we saved them two years of work in two hours. They were just so appreciative."

Though their trip has ended, the Marines are looking forward to helping with the continuous relief efforts again.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNNERY SGT. FABIO L. SALAS

HIGASHIMATSUSHIMA, Japan- Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marines help clear away debris here May 20 - 29 following the March 11 tsunami that rocked northeastern Japan. The Marines volunteered personal leave to help with disaster relief.



# Navy Corpsmen celebrate 113 years of service



Members of the Corpsmen Color Guard parade the colors during the opening ceremony of the 2011 Navy Hospital Corpsmen Ball at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here June 17. The Vietnam war was the theme for the ball this year. The guest speak was Dr. John E. Fortunato. Fortunato spoke of his time serving in the U.S. Army along side Navy corpsmen and how those experiences shaped him.

## Corpmen, Marines, station residents honor fallen comrades, illustrious history

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

Navy hospital corpsmen celebrated their 113th birthday at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here during the 2011 Navy Hospital Corpsmen Ball June 17. Corpsmen and Marines were both on hand to pay tribute to the sacrifices corpsmen made over the years.

The Vietnam War was the focal point for this year's ball. Approximately 638 corpsmen lost their lives during the war.

In homage to those corpsmen, a small table was set aside. A small plate of salt symbolized the bittersweet taste of knowing the fallen corpsmen would not be able to join in on the evening's festivities.

The evening kicked off with the parading of the colors before the arrival of the official party.

The guest of honor this year was Dr. John E. Fortunato.

Fortunato served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1970.

Fortunato told a story he witnessed during his first tour in Vietnam when a corpsman went above and beyond the call of duty to

help a local worker's child who had fallen gravely ill and was unable to be treated.

"The corpsmen said 'I really shouldn't be doing this' but when he saw the child, he decided to help," said Fortunato.

At that time, it was against policy to give medical attention to the Vietnamese, regardless if they worked on base or not.

"When I heard him say he shouldn't instead of he can't, I decided to press the issue," Fortunato added.

The child was administered Intravenous therapy and was set up in a small, secluded part of the barracks. Two corpsmen took turns watching over the child for several days until the boy was well enough to leave.

Fortunato said he never saw the corpsmen again after the child was well.

"I only knew his last name, but I often wonder if he ever told this story to his children or grandchildren," said Fortunato.

Fortunato kept in touch with the small child over the years, eventually seeing him as a grown man. He said it was because of the selfless care of corpsmen that the child was able to live.

"Corpsmen have to be like parents; selfless," said Fortunato.

A slideshow presentation was up next. Pictures of Marines and corpsmen filled the screen, showing intersecting moments of the Vietnam War. The crowd was silent as the images appeared.

"It's humbling standing in the shadow of the rate," said Petty Officer 1st Class Katie A. Zirkle, a Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic emergency medical technician. "It makes corpsmen and Marines have a much deeper respect for what it means to be a corpsman."

Another example of that deeper appreciation and respect came in the form of the Corpsman's Pledge. Chief Petty Officer Adrian R. Figueroa, Branch Health Clinic senior enlisted leader, led the corpsmen in reciting the pledge, reaffirming their allegiance to defending the Marines in their charge.

The last event of the evening was the cake-cutting ceremony. The cake cutting takes place between the oldest and youngest corpsmen present.

The oldest corpsman passing the first slice to the youngest corpsman represents the passing of knowledge from the older generation to the younger generation. The

youngest corpsman passing a slice to the oldest corpsman symbolizes keeping the traditions and history of the Navy Hospital Corps alive.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Zackary Hollowood was the youngest corpsman present. Cmdr. Caesar Odvina was the oldest corpsman.

The Navy Hospital Corps is one of the largest, and commended, organizations within the Navy. During the Vietnam War, 4,563 corpsmen earned the Purple Heart, along with many others awarded even higher honors.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jessica M. McDurmon said young corpsmen and Marines who attend the ball should share the experience of knowing they share a common bond. It should be something that fills them with pride.

Navy corpsmen have been an integral part of the Marine Corps since our nation's beginning. They have fought and died beside Marines, recognizing the importance of being "Doc." Whether going to the on-base naval clinic or in the fields of combat, corpsmen will continue to put themselves in harm's way to honor their commitment of safeguarding the nation's Marines.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Zackary Hollowood (right) slices the ceremonial cake at the 2011 Hospital Corpsmen Ball at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here June 17 as Cmdr. Caesar Odvina (left) looks on. Odvina was the oldest corpsman present. Hollowood was the youngest corpsman. The oldest corpsman passing a slice cake to the youngest corpsman represents the passing of knowledge and tradition to the younger generation. The younger corpsman passing it back to the older generation symbolizes keeping those traditions alive.



A single table was set aside in memory of corpsmen who have lost their lives during the 113 year history of the Navy Corpsmen rate during the 2011 Navy Hospital Corpsmen Ball at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here June 17. Corpsmen have long sacrificed their lives in service to Marines and country as well.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Julian Finkle rings the bell during the 2011 Navy Hospital Corpsmen Ball, signalling the arrival of the official party at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here June 17. Marines and corpsmen came together to reflect on the history and sacrifices corpsmen have made in the 113 year history of the rate.



Cpl. Steven S. Mitchell (left) and Seaman Apprentice Scott E. Dingman (right) bow their heads in prayer during the invocation at the 2011 Navy Hospital Corpsmen Ball at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here June 17. Mitchell offered a toast to the corpsmen at the ball's conclusion, thanking the corpsmen for the sacrifices they continually make to ensure Marines are taken care of at home and abroad.



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

# The thin line between crazy, brave

SGT. EARNEST J. BARNES  
2ND MARINE DIVISION

**WASHIR, Helmand province, Afghanistan** — Most people who I’ve talked to about the occupational field where the job description requires you to go into some of the world’s most dangerous places and look for homemade bombs generally give the impression that anyone who would perform this duty walks the fine line of crazy and brave.

I recently spent seven days with the Marines of Route Clearance Platoon, Mobile Assault Company, 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion. These are the Marines who walk that fine line.

Every time they leave the forward operating base, they have little to no idea what danger lies ahead, but they push forward without complaint.

The mission they were supporting during my time with them was an Afghan-led operation.

It was the Marines’ job to pave a safe path for the Afghans from Highway 1 up Route 612, a dirt road through the desert, to the village of Washir.

We were headed northeast on roughly 25 miles of unimproved road and desert terrain to a village, which was thought to be an insurgent safe haven and had not had a constant military presence since the beginning of the war.

As we set out on this mission, I really didn’t know what to expect. All I could think about was, “These guys are way too calm to go looking for improvised explosive devices.” Don’t get me wrong, I’m not scared of death, but I also don’t go knocking on its door on a regular basis.

On the same note, their stark demeanor brought a peace over me. There might be some kind of psyche behind this, but in my nearly eight years of experience in the Marine Corps, I’ve noticed the mood of the Marines around you can drastically affect how you perceive the current situation.

We pushed out in the morning from FOB Delaram I, the Afghan National Army compound, as the sun was making its way over the horizon. This was the first convoy I had been on since I’ve been in country lasting more than a few hours, and by far the slowest, but slow only by the nature of the work being performed. We turned off of Hwy-1 onto Route 612 and it seemed the convoy came to an abrupt halt. The Husky mine detection vehicles were in the lead, creeping along and scanning for IEDs with their oversized metal detectors. The Afghan Route Clearance Tolai from the 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps of the Afghan National Army were

trailing closely behind us.

According to 1st Lt. Christopher Campis, the platoon commander for the Route Clearance Platoon, intelligence reports stated Route 612 was riddled with anywhere from 100 to 200 IEDs. It was RCP’s job to find them and escort the Afghan forces to their destination safely.

atop the trucks, there was a sense of safety in my mind knowing my brother’s are keeping a watchful eye on the horizon.

The next morning we woke before dawn to continue our slow movement to Washir. A few hours after the Huskies began carving a safe path through the desert, we reached the outskirts of the

desert.

As we were settling for the night, Sgt. Stephen LeonGuerrero (KuKu), the vehicle commander for Gun Truck 3, turns to the back of the truck and asked me “Do you mind standing watch tonight?” My policy when I attached to a unit is, I am part of that unit and there should be nothing expected from the Marines that isn’t expect of me as well. I tell him I would absolutely stand watch. From 11:30 p.m. until 01:30 a.m., I assumed the role of one of those over watch Marines I spoke about earlier.

I scanned the desert horizon, left then right, with specialized optics for enemy activity. If anything will keep you awake on a midnight shift of over watch, it is the thought in your mind that you have a burning responsibility to the Marines around you. Their lives are in your hands, and that is a lot to own up to if something were to go wrong.

I got to know the Marines over the seven days I spent with them. They told me their stories, just as I told them mine. I gathered patience as a main factor to their success. Patience is required to combat and defeat a resilient and extreme insurgency. Route Clearance Platoon displays it every time they roll their wheels on the dirt of an unexplored route. There are a multitude of assets for these Marines to do their job and they take their time to investigate any potential hit from the metal detectors. They know if they don’t, it could cost them their lives

This is one of those units you read about in a book or see on T.V. Their exploits seem fictional and their love for one another may seem exaggerated, until you see it for yourself.

They’ll probably never say, “I love you brother,” but they don’t have to because you can hear it in their voices when they talk to one another, playfully pick on each other, and you can see it in their eyes. It is a love that runs deeper than blood.

My point in case ... They’ve had one Marine medically evacuated during the two months they’ve been in country after a vehicle struck an IED. Pfc. Jesse Pacheco, the .50 caliber machine gunner and a combat engineer, suffered a mild concussion from the incident. KuKu, said the next mission, Pacheco was back in the gun seat again holding rear security. When I asked Pacheco why he was ok with getting back in the turret he simply stated, “I don’t want to disappoint the Marines.”

This is the character of Marine you will find within 2nd CEB. Everyday they leave the wire, they risk their lives so someone else, civilian or military, can move about the country safely.

I think 1st Lt. Campis sums it up best with, “Every IED we take off the route, that is one person or one vehicle we’ve saved from hitting that IED.”



SGT. EARNEST J. BARNES

**WASHIR, Helmand province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** — Cpl. Daniel R. Belden, a Warren, Ohio, native sweeps an area with his metal detector checking for improvised explosive devices. Belden, a combat engineer with Route Clearance Platoon, 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, is one of the many Marines who risk their lives everyday to give the people of Afghanistan a better life.

We stopped in a wadi, which is a dried riverbed, just as the sun was tucking away for the evening on the first day.

The RCP and ANA vehicles were strategically staged about the wadi to provide good security over watch for our nights’ stay in the desert. While heading into an area not strictly controlled by the government and having no idea what lies over the next ridge, it would seem logical to stay inside the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles for the duration of the night. With Marines manning machine guns

village.

The trip to Washir took two days and nearly 15 hours due to the fact we were only traveling during daylight hours. At this point the Route Clearance Tolai took the lead on the convoy and pushed forward to just outside of the bazaar and the Marines cleared an area where the Afghan National Security Forces’ compound will be located.

We loaded the MRAPs and headed southwest back to FOB Delaram II once this task was complete, stopping at the half way point for another night in the

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

**Naha Consulate Visit**  
State Department personnel from the U.S. Consulate in Naha will be in Iwakuni July 12-14 conducting 30-minute interviews for I-130 petitioners. They will see petitioners from Iwakuni and Sasebo. An I-130 Petition is the beginning of the process to obtain immigration status for a foreign relative. For more information, contact Junko Sakamoto at the Legal Assistance Office at 253-5594.

**Origami Class**  
The Japanese American Society will be hosting an origami class Thursday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 253-4744.

**TriCare Coverage Change**  
A new TriCare program is offering coverage for young adults, dependents under 26, unmarried, and those not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health care coverage may be qualified to purchase TYA, which offers TriCare standard coverage for monthly premiums of \$186. A premium-based TriCare Prime benefit will be available later this year.

For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/mediacenter/news.aspx?fid=706>.

**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 from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

**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 is required. The lending locker is located in Building 411 room 101. For more information call, 253-6161.

**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.

**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.

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

**Birthday Break**  
The birthday break is an ongoing promotion held every Friday at 9:15 a.m. on Power 1575 radio. The promotion is open to anyone with a birthday. Just visit [www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake), fill out the form and let Power 1575 and Marine Corps Community Services take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on

the last Friday of every month there will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

Jobs

**Program Management Positions**  
Louis Berger Group is seeking experienced DoD, retired or separated military members for program management positions located at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan. Some requirements include a minimum four year degree, five years experience, U.S. citizen, able to obtain secret security clearance, experience with military requirements, planning and operations. For immediate consideration for local residents, you may submit a resume to [lbginokinawa@gmail.com](mailto:lbginokinawa@gmail.com). For more information visit [www.louisberger.com](http://www.louisberger.com) and look for jobs indicated for Okinawa.

Vehicles

**Toyota BB**  
JCI good until March 2013, vehicle has 127,550 km, automatic transmission, engine and fluids recently serviced, two new front tires. A/C works

**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 to be published. You may submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551 to make your submission over the phone. 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.*

# Playing hard without injury

SAFETY FROM PAGE 2

Skateboard Safety

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 26,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year with skateboard related injuries.

Sprains, fractures, contusions and abrasions are the most common types of injuries. Several factors are involved in these accidents. Skateboard riding requires good balance and body control, yet many young skateboarders have not developed the necessary balance and do not react quickly enough to prevent injury. Six out of every 10 skateboard injuries are to children under 15 years of age.

Injuries to first-time skateboarders are, for the most part, due to falls. Experienced riders mainly suffer injuries when they fall after their skateboards

strike rocks and other irregularities in the riding surface or when they attempt difficult stunts.

Protective gear, such as closed, slip-resistant shoes, helmets, and specially designed padding, may not fully protect skateboarders from fractures, but its recommended to reduce the severity of injuries.

Padded jackets and shorts are available, as well as padding for hips, knees, elbows, wrist braces and special skateboarding gloves.

All of this gear will help absorb the impact of a fall. The gear should not interfere with the skater’s movement, vision, or hearing.

In a helmet look for proper fit and a chin strap. Make sure the helmet does not block the rider’s vision and hearing. Body padding should fit comfortably. If padding is too tight, it could restrict circulation and reduce the skater’s ability to move freely. Loose-fitting padding, on

the other hand, could slip off or slide out of position. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission offers the following suggestions for safe skate-boarding:

- Never ride in the street
- Don’t take chances
- Complicated tricks require careful practice and a specially designed area
- Only one person per skateboard
- Never hitch a ride from a car, bus, truck, bicycle, etc
- Learning how to fall in case of an accident may help reduce your chances of being seriously injured
- If you are losing your balance, crouch down on the skateboard so that you will not have so far to fall
- In a fall, try to land on the fleshy parts of your body
- If you fall, try to roll rather than absorb the force with your arms
- Even though it may be difficult, during a fall try to relax your body, rather than stiffen



# 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



Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, answers questions from Combat Logistics Company 36 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 during a town hall meeting at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here June 15. Amos and Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, 17th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, visited the air station during a seven-day tour of the Pacific Theater. 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

**Friday, June 24, 2011**  
7 p.m. Super 8 (PG-13)  
*Premier*  
10 p.m. The Hangover Part 2 (R)

**Saturday, June 25, 2011**  
1 p.m. Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG)  
4 p.m. Madea’s Big Happy Family (PG-13) *Premier*  
7 p.m. X-Men: First Class (PG-13)

**Sunday, June 26, 2011**  
1 p.m. Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG)  
4 p.m. Madea’s Big Happy Family (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Super 8 (PG-13)

**Monday, June 27, 2011**  
7 p.m. Arthur (PG)  
*Last Showing*

**Tuesday, June 28, 2011**  
1 p.m. Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG)  
7 p.m. Water For Elephants (PG-13)

**Wednesday, June 29, 2011**  
7 p.m. Your Highness (R)

**Thursday, June 30, 2011**  
1 p.m. Soul Surfer (PG)  
7 p.m. Something Borrow (PG-13)  
*Premier*

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.**

## Mess Hall Menu

**Monday**  
Cream of broccoli soup, turkey pot pie, chicken vega, Cajun baked fish, steamed rice, mashed sweet potatoes, cauliflower combo, collard greens, vegetable gravy, apple dressing, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar bear claws, quick apple coffee cake, apple crunch, marble cake with chocolate frosting, macadamia cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, jello parfait.

**Tuesday**  
Chicken gumbo soup, shrimp scampi, barbecue pork ribs, sweet and sour chicken, peas with onions, wax beans, steamed rice, oven browned potatoes, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, banana nut muffin, quick apple coffee cake, blueberry pie, devil’s food cake with chocolate frosting, peanut butter cookies, coconut cream pudding, jello parfait.

**Wednesday**  
Tomato soup, lasagna, roast pork, fried breaded shrimp, au gratin potatoes, steamed rice, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, garlic bread, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, pecan rolls, cherry crunch, Banana cake with chocolate frosting, sugar cookies, chocolate pudding parfait and jello parfait.

**Thursday**  
Minestrone soup, barbecued ribs, chicken on orange sauce, steak and vegetables, steamed rice, pork fried rice, vegetable stir fry cabbage, peas and carrots, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, blueberry muffins, apple pie, spice cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, jello parfait.

**Friday**  
Cream of mushroom soup, baked tuna and noodles, salisbury steak, fried catfish, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, brussel sprouts, cream style corn, brown gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar kolaches, quick French coffee cake, Boston cream pie, double layer carrot cake with lemon butter cream frosting, oatmeal raisin cookies, vanilla pudding parfait, jello parfait.

## Golfers support injured heroes

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Eight Marines and sailors participated in the golf-a-thon fundraiser at the Torii Pines Golf Course here, June 10, in support of fallen and injured military members.

The Marines and sailors who participated in the all-day golf fundraiser were Louis Starnes, Robert Pippin, Troy Ruby, Jerry Woods, Keith Applegate, Travis Eno, Geno Johnston and Ryan Chilson.

The fundraiser was put together by these same Marines and sailors with hopes to raise money for Sgt. Joshua Elliott, a Marine whose legs and half of his left hand were blown off by an Improvised Explosive Device while deployed to Afghanistan, as well as the Wounded Warrior Project.

Elliott served two tours here aboard the air station, completing his most recent one this past summer.

According to a Stars and Stripes article, friends and acquaintances said although he was no longer aboard the air station, his presence was still felt.

According to the same article, Elliott had only been in Afghanistan for three months when he led Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines into what the media called “the most dangerous place on earth,” the Sangin district.

Elliott made his way through a building that needed to be cleared.

He went through the building to the stairs leading to the rooftop. He managed to get three gunners up on the roof and made his way back downstairs where he stepped on the missed IED, said the article.

“After hearing about Sgt. Elliott’s story, I

thought this would be a good idea because I love to golf, and I thought why not, it raises money, and I get to do something I love,” said Johnston.

The participants of this fundraiser accepted pledges for each golfer as well as overall donations. Pledges were made per hole, par, birdie, lost ball and many more.

The money earned by these eight men was more than they had anticipated.

“We had originally thought maybe \$2,000,” said Applegate. “We thought \$1,000 for the Sgt. Elliott Fund and \$1,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project would be good. We earned well over \$2,000, more like \$7,000 or more.”

The men decided to split the money earned. Half the total earned went toward the fund and half to the Wounded Warrior Project.

The eight men started the day of golfing at 4:27 a.m. and continued until they hit their goal of 108 holes.

The players managed to make their goal of 108 holes by 6:10 p.m.

It took the eight men almost 14 hours to golf 108 holes.

Not all of the money raised was based on pledges. Quite a few only wanted to donate and not pledge.

With over \$7,000 raised for both Elliott and the Wounded Warrior Project, the eight men spent a whole day golfing and doing something they all loved for a good cause.

Elliott and his family are grateful for the support that has been pouring in from Elliott’s friends and acquaintances, said Elliott’s parents Dennis and DeLynn Elliott.

With the support received and the ever giving support of others, Elliott and other wounded warriors are still alive today.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Ryan Chilson, golf-a-thon fundraiser participant, looks down range as he prepares to tee-off during the golf-a-thon fundraiser held at the Torii Pines Golf Course here, June 10, in support of injured and fallen military members. The money earned went toward the Sgt. Elliott fund and the Wounded Warrior Project.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELLIOTT FAMILY

Sgt. Joshua Elliott after he was awarded the Purple Heart in his hospital bed following the April 18 Improvised Explosive Device attack. Elliott shows relief that he is alive today and looks forward to rejoining the Marine Corps life. Eight Marines and sailors participated in a golf-a-thon fundraiser in support of wounded military members. Profits go to the Sgt. Elliott Fund and the Wounded Warrior Project.



# 14th SMP Birthday Bash

Saturday, June 25

4 - 8 p.m.

Hornet's Nest

**FREE!**

# ROCK + THE BLOCK!

Live Entertainment, Games & Tournaments!  
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips & More!



253-3585/[www.mccsiwakuni.com/smp](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com/smp)

