

## CLEAN-UP

Service members clean local iconic symbol | P. 4

## BAT 'ER UP!!!

Team Torii fights back heat of the Dragons | P. 12

## PARTY

Single Marine Program turns 14-years-old | P. 6 & 7

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 25 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan — Marine Division Tactics Course aviation graduates pose for a group photo in front of an F-4 Phantom II here June 23. (Top, left to right) Maj. Jayson M. Tiger, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 pilot, Capt. Christopher P. Allain, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 pilot, Capt. Frank A. Machniak, a VMFA-314 pilot, Capt. Dustin B. Cook, a VMFA(AW)-225 pilot, (Bottom, left to right) Capt. Scott W. Warman, Capt. Clayton D. Gard III, Maj. Neil A. Cordes, VMFA(AW)-533 weapon systems operators, and Capt. David C. Dunsworth, a VMFA(AW)-225 WSO.

## MDTC aviation students fly through course

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

### KADENA AIR BASE, Japan

Command-selected students from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 533, 225 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 314 and 232 graduated from the Marine Division Tactics Course in a ceremony at the Officers Club here Tuesday.

MDTC is a graduate-level course for pilots and weapon systems operators to improve their efficiency in the air-to-air arena.

"Our students are already experienced pilots," said Maj. Doug A. Seich, an MDTC Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One basic fighter maneuver instructor. "The pilots and weapon systems operators were selected because they meet the qualifications and requirements MDTC demands."

The aviation students were di-

vision leader qualified by their commanding officers, as well as proficient in basic fighter maneuvers for one-versus-one and two-versus-two dog-fighting.

Qualified as division leaders, pilots have proven they are capable of leading up to four aircraft during a single mission.

Air Force F-15 Eagles with the 44th Fighter Squadron here and Airborne Tactical Advantage Company Hawker Hunters contracted out of Naval Base Atsugi flew as simulated enemy aggressors against the MDTC students to provide training during the duration of MDTC.

"There was a lot of red air in this course compared to flying with our squadrons," said Capt. Dustin B. Cook, a VMFA(AW)-225 pilot. "It was challenging trying to make the best of a bad situation during some of the complex exercises we flew."

The robust air package the

course delivered was set up by many people.

"It was an impressive course," Cook said. "A lot of assets went into making this happen. All of the students are appreciative of all the hard work that made this happen."

The MWATS-1 instructors created a syllabus the aviation students stuck to throughout the four-week course.

The first week, the MWATS-1 instructors built upon the aviation student's knowledge of air-to-air engagements by teaching the pilots and weapon systems operators advanced air-to-air tactics.

The following three weeks tested the pilots and weapon systems operators with various exercises.

The exercises in MDTC are on a higher difficulty level for the aviation students than squadron-based training.

SEE GRADUATION ON PAGE 3

## Top generals fly on Bats' wings

CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

### KADENA AIR BASE, Japan

Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 sponsored three orientation flights for three of the Marine Corps' top commanding generals here June 17 and 20.

VMFA(AW)-242 pilots gave Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler commanding general, Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, 3rd Marine Logistics Group commanding general, and Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, 3rd Marine Division commanding general, the ride of their lives in the back seat of a F/A-18 Hornet jet to show them just what VMFA(AW)-242 aircraft can do.

Maj. Glen Savage, VMFA(AW)-242 pilot, flew with Talleri during his orientation flight in order to show Talleri some of the air tactics the Marines have been practicing the past few weeks.

"I felt with the capabilities and inventory we have as far as weapons systems, it is always best to get a great idea of what those capabilities are," said Talleri. "I learned a lot about what the Hornet does not only for our Marine Corps, but for our nation."

Crenshaw flew with

SEE GENERALS ON PAGE 3

## Youth & Teen Center children learn to be environmentally aware

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Boys and Girls Clubs of America sponsored a competition for 10 of the top clubs around the world to receive a \$2,800 Energy Star Service grant in April.

The children of the Youth and Teen Center here sent in an application to participate in the competition and were chosen as one of

SEE ENVIRONMENT ON PAGE 3





**Commanding Officer/Publisher**

Col. James C. Stewart

**Public Affairs Officer**

Capt. J. Lawton King

**Operations & Press Chief**

Staff Sgt. Jimmy H. Bention Jr.

**Editor**

Cpl. Claudio A. Martinez

**Combat Correspondents**

Cpl. Marcel Brown  
Cpl. Jennifer Pirante  
Lance Cpl. Vanessa Jimenez  
Lance Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.  
Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark  
Lance Cpl. Cayce Nevers

**Webmaster**

Yukie Wada

**Community/Media Relations**

Hiroko Soriki  
Hiromi M. Kawamoto

**Administration**

Hiro Sumida

"This weekly newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed overseas and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps, and does not imply endorsement thereof."

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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

PSC 561 Box 1868  
FPO AP 96310-0019  
Phone 253-5551  
Fax 253-5554

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## 'Running from God'

LT. ROBERT E. MILLS  
DEPUTY COMMAND  
CHAPLAIN

The Old Testament Biblical story of Jonah is a story that entertains, uplifts, inspires, teaches, builds character and sometimes invites serious questions. Let me take a minute to remind you of the story.

Jonah was sitting at home one day when God talked to him – actually he asked him to go to the wicked Assyrian city of Nineveh and preach to the citizens there, warning them their wickedness was so serious that their city was about to be destroyed unless they repented.

For some reason or other, Jonah decided he would rather be somewhere else, so he took passage on a boat from Joppa in Israel heading for Tarshish. Nineveh was northeast of Jonah's home, Tarshish was west. Jonah was trying to get as far away from God and his strange request as possible.

So, he got on the ship, headed for Tarshish and was sailing away from God (or so he thought) when a terrible storm came. Jonah, the other passengers and crew were terrified for their lives and many of them were calling

on their gods to save them. Jonah knew the storm was from God and

he told the crew to toss him overboard and the storm would abate. Finally the crew, fearing for their very lives, decided to do as Jonah said. They reluctantly picked him up and threw him over the rail into the sea. Instantly, the sea calmed and ceased its raging. The crewmen were grateful and offered sacrifices to Jonah's God, thanking him for their lives.

In the meantime, poor Jonah was sinking down into a tempestuous sea when everything suddenly got very black and very stinky. Jonah could hear all sorts of strange noises. Everything felt warm and kind of smooth and rubbery. Nope, this wasn't hell – although the smell was probably pretty close. It wasn't heaven either. Instead, God had prepared a great fish that swallowed Jonah and carried him for three days and nights in its belly. What a nasty place to be! At least Jonah was alive, although his quality of life for that time was not very nice. Three days later the great fish vomited Jonah out on the beach near – wait for it – Ninevah, the original city God had asked him to preach to. Jonah, having a significant gain in IQ during the previous three days, finally decided to do what God had

asked him to do. He preached to the citizens of Nineveh who all repented, turned from their wickedness and were all saved as a result!

So what can we learn from this unusual story in 2011 in Iwakuni? I think there are three lessons here. One: don't run from your destiny because sooner or later it will catch up with you. Cheerfully do what you know you have to do. Your life will be happier, and you won't be as likely to end up as fish food! Two: God knows everything! He knows where we are and what we are doing – even what we are thinking. Believe it or not, that is a good thing, primarily because of the last lesson. Three: even though he knows everything about us, God cares deeply for us. He loves us! He cared enough about his wayward messenger to send a nauseous fish to save his life and to provide free transportation to his appointed place of duty. He also cared enough about the people of Nineveh to send them a warning message of doom and an opportunity to be saved. When the people repented, God saved them and their city. He cares about us just as much and provides the same opportunities to us. We can go through this life either first class or fish class – our choice. If you have questions about this, just ask me about it. I'd be glad to share with you. Blessings and peace!

## Camp fires, barbecue, fire works safety

SUBMITTED BY  
STATION SAFETY

### Fireworks safety

Fireworks are not allowed on base for personal use, but here are some safety tips for when and where you can enjoy them with your friends and family.

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Always have water handy. (A hose or bucket).
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type. (According to the National Council on Fireworks Safety).
- Never use homemade fireworks. It is illegal and unsafe.

### Barbecue safety

Summer Barbecue Season is here! So let's get the grill ready to go! Spend a few minutes on your "Q", and you'll have a cleaner, safer running barbecue, that cooks food more evenly.

First let's give the barbecue an inspection. You should make a prop of doing this every time you change a propane tank as well.

Spray soapy water on the connections, and supply lines. If you see bubbles, gas is still leaking. Shut off the tank and get the leaky part replaced.

Remove the grates and charcoal, checking out the burner. If it looks good visually, then fire it up and make sure that you have an even flame throughout. If not, then replace it. Most burners only last 1 or 2 seasons, depending on how much you use your barbecue.

Since you already have the charcoal out, why not clean out all the ash and grease that's accumulated at the bottom of the barbecue? While you're cleaning, check the unit for rust and any signs of deterioration.

Don't forget to check and clean out the venture tubes that deliver the gas to the burner. If they get plugged up, the gas will get diverted elsewhere, and could pose a hazard.

Whenever you barbecue...

Make sure the barbecue is at least eight feet (1.5 meters), or better yet from the house, or any other material that could catch fire.

Only open your propane tank a quarter to one-half turn. That's all the gas your barbecue needs to operate, and if you have problem, then it's much easier to shut off.

Unless you're keen on joining the space program, always open the barbecue lid before you light it. If it doesn't fire up the first time you try it, shut it down, and try it again in five minutes. From the time you light the barbecue, till you're finished cooking, stay with your fire.

Never leave a barbecue unattended.

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 9

## VMFA(AW)-242 shows top generals F/A-18 capabilities



KADENAAIR BASE, Japan – Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., (right), III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, greets Brig. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, III Marine Logistics Group commanding general after an orientation flight with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 here June 20. VMFA(AW)-242 pilots gave Crenshaw, Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler commanding general and Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, 3rd Marine Division commanding general, the ride of their lives in the back seat of a F/A-18 Hornet jet to show them just what VMFA(AW)-242 aircraft can do.

GENERALS FROM PAGE 1

VMFA(AW)-242 pilot, Capt. Ernesto Howard, and Brilakis flew with VMFA(AW)-242 pilot, Capt. Bijan Derakhshan.

It was the first time any of the generals have soared through the skies in the back seat of an F/A-18 Hornet, an experience only few will have in their lifetime.

"There were some things we did up there that impressed me," said Brilakis.

"Every opportunity I get to spend with Marines is always a treat," he added.

Col. Christopher Mahoney, MAG-12 commanding officer, and Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., commanding general of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, arrived on deck to meet the generals on the ground as soon as they landed.

"It was truly a memorable experience," said Brilakis. "One that I will not forget."

The orientation flights were in the midst of the MAG-12 and Marine Aviation Weapons Squadron 1 sponsored Marine Divisions Tactics Course. MDTC is a graduate level course designed to provide F/A-18 Hornet aircrew and the Marine Air Intercept Controllers with training in a complex

air-to-air environment.

Command-selected F/A-18 Hornet pilots and weapon systems operators from VMFA(AW) 533 and 225 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 314 and 232 participated in the first MDTC to be conducted outside of the continental U.S.

VMFA(AW)-242 came to Kadena to aid MAG-12 in its mission by acting as simulated enemy aggressors for various basic fighter maneuver training events.

"We came down here mainly to provide some spare aircraft to make sure all the events happened on time," said Capt. Bijan Derakhshan, VMFA(AW)-242 pilot. "In case there were any maintenance delays, we had back-up aircraft ready to go flying."

After the orientation flights, MAG-12 command elements gave the generals a tour of the work and maintenance spaces to show how all the Marines continued to successfully improve mission readiness during the training evolution.

"I had every confidence the Marines who maintain this gear and the pilots who fly the aircraft knew what they were doing," said Brilakis.

MDTC students graduated from the course Tuesday.

## Aviation students complete MDTC

GRADUATION FROM PAGE 1

The aviation students learned advanced air-to-air combat skills, which they will be able to teach their respective squadrons.

"One of our goals as MAWTS-1 instructors is to teach these students how to instruct the young pilots and weapon systems operators in their respective squadrons about what was taught in the course," said Maj. Christopher J. Boese, an MDTC MAWTS-1 WSO instructor.

The MDTC MAWTS-1 instructors who taught this course were Maj. Christopher J. Boese, Maj. Erika S. Bowmer, Maj. Benedict G. Buerke, Maj. Edmund B. Hipp, Maj. Roy J. Nicka, Maj. Douglas A. Seich, Maj. Kyle B. Shoop and Capt. Michael T. Conte.

The MDTC aviation students, Capt. Christopher P. Allain, a VMFA-232 pilot, Capt. Frank A. Machniak, a VMFA-314 pilot, Capt. Dustin B. Cook, a VMFA(AW)-225 pilot, Capt. David C. Dunsworth, a VMFA(AW)-225 weapon systems operator, Maj. Jayson M. Tiger and Capt. Clayton D. Gard III, VMFA(AW)-533 pilots and Maj. Neil A. Cordes and Capt. Scott W. Warman, VMFA(AW)-533 weapon systems operators, successfully completed the course.

MDTC is a stepping stone for the pilots and weapon systems operators by preparing them for aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructors' course, which will further increase combat readiness.

## Youth & Teens Center to receive grant

ENVIRONMENT FROM PAGE 1

the 10 clubs to participate. Charles R. Hill, station environmental protection specialist and guest speaker, spoke to the children at the Youth and Teen Center June 21.

"The kids need to be a part of what is going on just as much as anyone else," said Hill. "By participating in the grant, they are showing that they are responsible and they also have interest in the environment."

Hill taught the children about the basics in conserving energy, water and covered the rules to recycling properly.

"It is important for youth and teens to be involved in what is going on with the environment," said Hill.

"They can keep the adults reminded of the right thing to do. The decisions they make today will affect the environment for the future," he added.

Youth and Teen Center personnel invited Hill to speak to the children in order to help them become more environmentally aware.

"We are working with the base on this because part of the grant is that we have to teach the kids how to save energy," said Tera K. Scott, Youth and Teen Center program assistant.

The Youth and Teen Center plans to pass out school equipment and supplies to the children with the money earned from the grant.

"(The grant) gives us funds to help support the base for educational purposes," said Scott.

The center also chose to par-

ticipate in this grant to help the Japanese with their goal of reducing energy consumption.

"The Japanese government would like all military installations to reduce its energy by five percent," said Scott.

Many of the children thought the information they received from Hill was important because it made them more environmentally aware and allowed them to be more involved with the community.

Nannady R. Hernandez, a Matthew C. Perry rising 10th-grader, frequently visits the Youth and Teen Center and came to hear Hill speak.

"I feel like us getting the grant is a good thing," said Hernandez.

"It has made a lot of the kids who come here more aware of the importance conserving and recycling have," said Hernandez.

"It is important because if one person is doing it, others will want to," he added.

Although some of the children were already familiar with recycling because they live out in town, others, such as the ones who live on base, learned the importance of recycling as well as conserving both energy and water.

Hernandez said he was going to use the information he learned and help others to become environmentally aware.

While the Energy Star Service grant is a fairly new concept, started on Earth Day 2009, youth and teens aboard the station jumped at the opportunity to save their surroundings.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Charles R. Hill, station environmental protection specialist, holds a can of spray paint and tells the children at the Youth and Teen Center they can take the spray cans to the recycling center instead of throwing them away during his lecture in support of the \$2,800 Energy Star Service grant at the Youth and Teen Center here June 21. The children of the Youth and Teen Center must perform the tasks they submitted in their proposal to Energy Star and the Boys and Girls Club of America during a competition held in April for a year. The first activity was educating the children about environmental awareness, which Hill completed after his lecture.





Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marines scour the area surrounding the Kintai Bridge looking for trash during a clean-up lead by Marine Aircraft Group 12 and MALS-12 Saturday. Approximately 25 station service members volunteered their efforts during the monthly Kintai Bridge clean-up.

## Service members give back to community

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Approximately 25 Station residents and service members participated in a volunteer clean-up at the Kintai Bridge area Saturday.

Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 service members organize the cleanup every month to strengthen the station's bonds with the city and give service members an opportunity to interact with the community.

"We want the community to see us as welcomed friends and not invaders of their space," said Lt. j.g. Travis Coffey, MAG-12 deputy chaplain and MALS-12 chaplain. "This is a positive way (for the service members) to get out and see the culture, be a part of the culture, learn from the culture and let the community see that we care about them."

Cpl. Michael A. Clemens, a MAG-12 Headquarters Section 2 system administrator, participated in the cleanup.

"This is a great chance to come

out and see the community," said Clemens. "There is no downside to doing this."

Clemens participates regularly on various MAG-12 and MALS-12 sponsored community relations projects with the hope of strengthening bonds between the station and Iwakuni community. "Every little thing counts," said Clemens. "Slowly we'll make a better impression."

MAG-12 and MALS-12 hosts approximately four community relations projects every month. The projects include visits to local orphanages, schools and monthly cleanups at the Kintai Bridge area.

"These (projects) are something the command puts on for Marines and sailors to be able to go out and experience the culture while giving back to the community," said Coffey.

Volunteering in these projects is a great opportunity to be seen by the community in positive light, he added.

Anyone wishing to participate in future projects can contact Coffey at 253-6106 or 253-3971.



Navy Lt. Brandi Sakai, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 flight surgeon, keeps her balance with a trash bag in hand as she walks on the edge of the Nishiki River at the Kintai Bridge area during a clean-up led by Marine Aircraft Group 12 and MALS-12 service members Saturday. Sakai arrived aboard the station a week before participating in the cleanup. This was her first time at the bridge.



Station residents and service members search the grounds surrounding the Kintai Bridge looking for trash during a clean-up led by Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 service members Saturday. MAG-12 and MALS-12 hosts the cleanup every month.



(LEFT) A service member picks up a piece of trash off the ground near the Kintai Bridge during a clean-up led by Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 service members Saturday. Anyone interested in participating in a community relations project led by MAG-12 and MALS-12 can call 253-6106 or 253-3971 for more information. (BELOW) People cross the Kintai Bridge located in Iwakuni City. The bridge is the only one of its kind in Japan.

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

# Semper Fit teaches service members more efficient physical training

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

Station Marines and sailors took part in the Semper Fit Combat Fitness Course at the IronWorks Gym here June 23-24.

The course's goal is to improve combat fitness readiness and train noncommissioned officers and above in creating different exercises that can be used during physical training.

"We're trying to train the body for overall performance and combat fitness," said Alma Dickinson, Semper Fit health promotions director. "It's a very different way to train."

The course is meant to work in conjunction with the Combat Fitness Test, which is designed to test a Marine's combat readiness.

Dickinson said though the course is designed to work alongside the CFT, it can extend past that.

"We're trying to provide a different way to train overall physical performance," said Dickinson. "The Marine Corps, back in 2007, started looking at how to train Marines to be physically ready to perform in urban combat situations adding short duration, high-intensity movements so (Marines) would have to perform in those types of situations."

The course consisted of in-class learning in the mornings followed by hands-on practical application in the afternoon.

The first day consisted of lectures on training for the CFT, performance and injury prevention. Later that afternoon, the students were introduced to the Total Resistance Exercise Suspension Trainer. The TRX is a device utilizing straps of varying lengths to provide resistance. Dickinson demonstrated several techniques to the 26 participants in the course.

Some of the exercises involved variations on rows, barbell curls and pushups.

A few participants found the exercises challenging from their regular PT.

"It definitely brings something different to the table," said Sgt. Mark A. Parado, a course participant. "It forces you to concentrate on keeping everything straight and aligned. It was definitely hard to keep my arms straight through the exercises. It's something I've never done."

Parado also said the possibility of using certain aspects of the course for group activities was something to consider.

"The courses and training we'll receive for the CFT will definitely help in a combat situation," said Parado. "(The TRX) is something I would employ with my Marines when we're looking for a different way to train."

The next day the course participants spent part of the morning having another lecture on fitness modalities and tactical nutrition.

"Nutrition plays such a huge role in the performance of our bodies," said Dickinson. "If you're doing intensive PT, you need to put high-quality fuel in your body. This helps to bring about better gains in their performance."

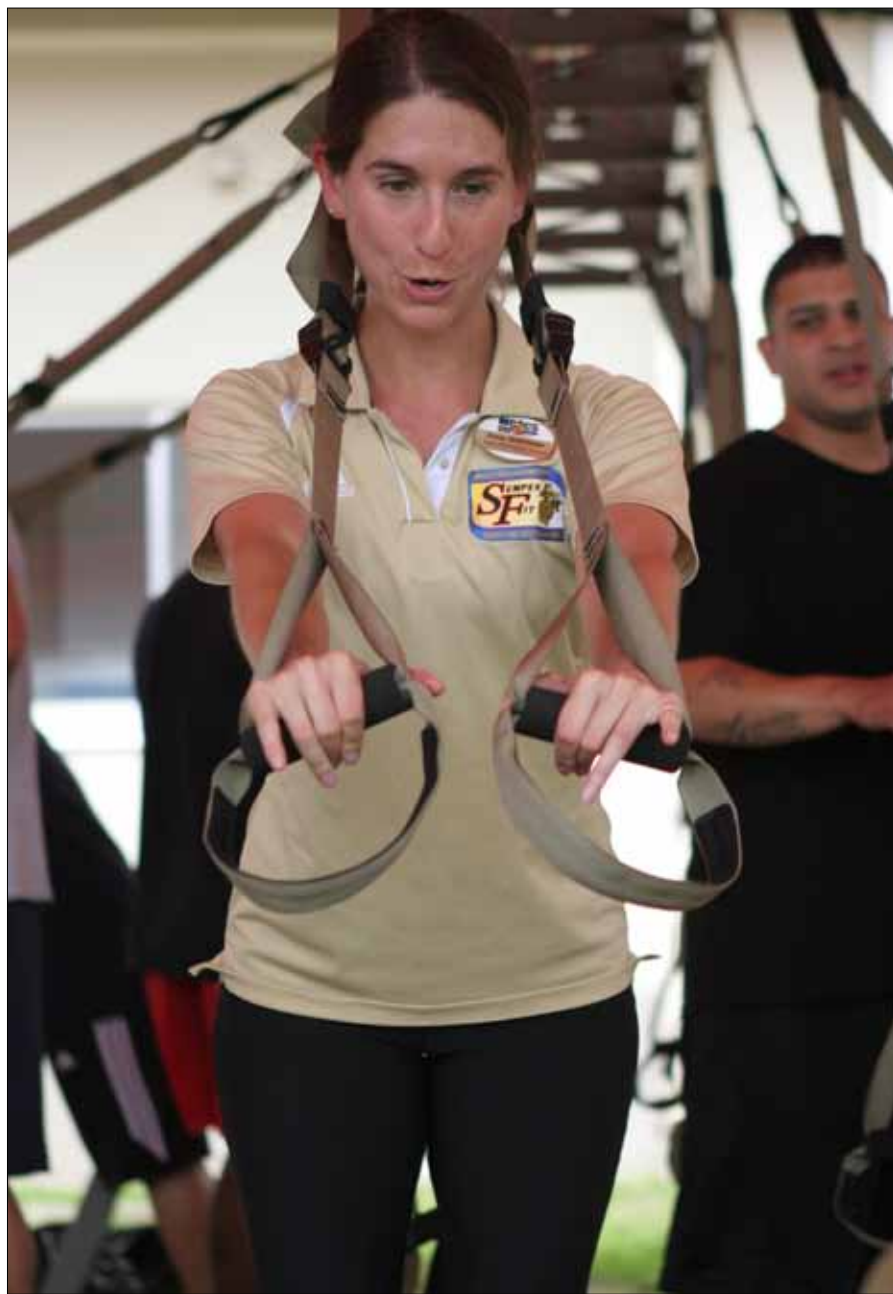
The afternoon was spent teaching the students exercises that could be used in combat situations, such as speed drills, plyometrics and an introduction to kettle bells.

The last step in the course had the participants put together their own workout programs, testing their knowledge of what they learned.

Sgt. Gerard Jones Jr., a course participant, said once he spends more time learning more in depth the fundamentals of the program he would apply it to PT sessions with his Marines.

Combat readiness and proper fitness are integral parts of the Marine Corps. Both are required in order to ensure Marines are able to be a force-in-readiness.

The Semper Fit Combat Fitness Course will hopefully open a way for Marines to better streamline the process and be ready to meet our nation's challenges.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Alma Dickinson, Semper Fit health promotions director, demonstrates an exercise on the Total Resistance Exercise Suspension Trainer for Marines and sailors during the Semper Fit Combat Fitness Course behind the IronWorks Gym here June 23. The course focused on providing noncommissioned officers and above different ways to train junior Marines and sailors.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Marines and sailors shuffle from one end of the parking lot as they toss medicine balls between each other during the Semper Fit Combat Fitness Course behind the IronWorks Gym here June 24. The course offered Marines and sailors a chance to expand on their physical training and introduce new equipment and methods such as the Total Resistance Exercise Suspension Trainer.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Sgt. Seth A. Hershberger, a Semper Fit Combat Fitness Course participant, tosses a medicine ball back and forth to Cpl. Aaron L. Trussler as part of a coordination drill during the Semper Fit Combat Fitness Course behind the IronWorks gym here June 24. Classes on nutrition were also taught along with the exercises.





Sgt. Edwond M. Henderson, Single Marine Program President, cuts the cake during the 14th SMP Birthday Bash outside the Hornet's Nest here Saturday as Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson, Marine Aircraft Group 12 sergeant major, (far left) and Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Marine Aviation Logistics 12 sergeant major (left), look on. The SMP offers Marines and sailors an opportunity to experience different cultures around the world by supplying trips year round. The SMP also works to improve the quality of life for single and unaccompanied Marines and sailors.

SMP Idol judges Gary Bernhard, (left), and Alex Stankowicz (right) dance and entertain the crowd as SMP Idol contestants sing during the Single Marine Program Birthday Bash behind the Hornet's Nest here Saturday. The SMP celebrated its 14th birthday, providing attendees with food, games and the SMP Idol.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Lance Cpl. Dyrilyn J. Allen, first place SMP Idol winner, sings a capella rendition of Luthor Vandross' "Dance With My Father" during the Single Marine Program Birthday Bash at the Hornet's Nest here Saturday. The bash celebrated the 14th anniversary of the SMP. Along with SMP Idol, there was also an arm wrestling competition, dunk booth, and noncompetitive sumo wrestling.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Pfc. Alexander Morris, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer (left) prepares to square off against Lance Cpl. Tyler Alcisto, a MWSS-171 automotive organizational mechanic (right), in a noncompetitive sumo match during the 14th Single Marine Program Birthday Bash behind the Hornet's Nest here Saturday. Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson, Marine Aircraft Group 12 sergeant major, and Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 sergeant major, were in attendance to help show their appreciation to service members and the SMP by taking part in the dunk booth.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Lance Cpl. Shanaya Payne, birthday bash attendee, straps a helmet onto Seaman Patrick L. Roy, a birthday bash participant, before he competes in a noncompetitive sumo match during the Single Marine Program Birthday Bash behind the Hornet's Nest here Saturday. The sumo match was one of several events on hand to help service members celebrate the SMP's 14th birthday.

# SMP celebrates 14 years of improving single Marines' quality of life

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

Marines and sailors celebrated the 14th birthday of the Single Marine Program at the Hornet's Nest here Saturday.

Established in 1997, the SMP is a Marine Corps wide program. Its goal, to provide single or unaccompanied Marines and sailors a place to relax, enjoy their time away from home, and get out and see the sights.

"Mostly, Marines overseas are the ones who benefit from this program," said Sgt. Edwond M. Henderson, Iwakuni SMP president. "It's not like when you're back in the (U.S.) where you can just drive off base."

For overseas Marines and sailors, along with going off base and offering trips, the SMP tries to serve as an alternative for other activities.

"The SMP is a way for sailors and Marines to have a good time without having to use alcohol," said Shaun S. Ally, Iwakuni SMP coordinator. "We're trying to provide a wholesome environment for everyone."

Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson, Marine Aircraft Group 12 sergeant major, and Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 sergeant major, offered a few words to commemorate the bash before watching Henderson cut the cake. Benson and Calvin also took part in the activities, offering to be willing recipients of the dunking booth.

Benson said the SMP has always been a willing participant in helping Marines and sailors have a better quality of life within the Marine Corps.

The birthday bash had several events for service members to come out and enjoy.

The SMP Idol, a play on the television show American Idol, had several people get up and test their luck to win. The first place winner, Dyrilyn J. Allen, received eight gift cards equaling \$200. The second place winner, Chris Larue, received four gift cards totaling \$100. Many event attendees clapped and cheered on the contestants as

they displayed their musical and dancing abilities.

Birthday bashers were also treated to an arm wrestling contest and a noncompetitive sumo match.

These are just a few of the things the SMP gives back to the station community for helping make the SMP as successful as it is today, said Ally.

"We want to get the word out even more," said Ally. "So much is going on. The station command is behind us, supporting us."

Marines and sailors were appreciative of the time and patience the SMP has put into accommodating them and for providing the opportunity to help celebrate its establishment.

"It means a lot for them to come out here on a hot Saturday afternoon making sure we're happy," said Allen. "They're not obliged to do this for us, but they do it anyway."

The SMP to continually seeks to find ways to provide opportunities for single or unaccompanied service members not only to enjoy themselves, but present more possibilities to learn and grow.

Japanese language classes are one of the many new agendas the SMP is attempting to make the station residents aware of. Without the voice of the single or unaccompanied Marines and sailors, new programs would never have the chance of being introduced to the station.

"When no one gives any input into what they want to see on station, it hurts them," said Henderson. "These programs are for them. If enough Marines were to come out and say they want a bus to go to the train station on the weekends, we'd get them a bus."

The birthday bash finished with Marines and sailors clapping and applauding the efforts the SMP has given to single or unaccompanied service members here. Though the SMP is only 14 years young, it has grown by leaps and bounds, culminating in an environment that caters toward friendship, brotherhood and providing a fun-filled atmosphere for Marines and sailors.



# CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

## Fallen squad leader lives on

SGT. JESSE STENCE  
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 1

**CAMP DWYER, Helmand province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** — I heard the final rifle volley and saw the winding procession of somber Marines, yet I'm sure Sgt. Joseph Garrison was there. Though I never shook his hand or looked him in the eye, his presence was as obvious as the occasional tear upon their stony faces.

One by one, the Marines knelt in front of the former Fox Company squad leader's meticulously arranged memorial display. A Catholic bowed his head, crossed himself and the clasped dog tags that hung from Garrison's upright rifle. Later, Sgt. Maj. Bryan Zickefoose, the Regimental Combat Team 1 sergeant major, saluted to a slow, six-count silent cadence and carefully placed the RCT-1 challenge coin inside one of the empty combat boots at the rifle's base. For about an hour, a tide of Marines seemed to ceaselessly flow forward to pay their final respects to the 27-year-old native of Clarion, Pa.

Garrison's squad was among the first to say goodbye. When I found them afterward, they were huddled between a row of bunkers and domed brown tents. Hardly anyone was speaking, and I immediately felt out of place with two bulky industry-standard cameras strapped around my neck.

Few Marines acknowledged me when I arrived. One looked up — he bore a sullen, pained expression — and I awkwardly asked if he'd be interested in helping me get some information for a memorial story on Garrison. Without a word, he shook his head no.

I began to feel like an intruder and wasn't sure how to proceed until I remembered Cpl. Jose Herrera, Garrison's assistant patrol leader. I didn't know his name at the time; I think I just described him as the Hispanic Marine who offered his personal reflections on Sgt. Garrison.

"Brother, as you watch over us, know this," Herrera said during the ceremony. "The hell ... and wars in life I have gone through, I would do over and over again. To share one more firefight. To sit at your side and speak of all the impossible actions we have accomplished. Your war is finally over. Rest brother. I will see you one day in the far but near future."

"To share one more firefight" was the phrase that stuck. To hear the hell of combat described so intimately — who was this Sgt. Garrison, and who are these Marines with whom he served?

I described Herrera to the quiet Marine, who dutifully led me to the closest bunker. There, the midday sun half-lit the Marine nearest the entrance, who was speaking at a fierce half-whisper to another Marine in the shadows. The half-lit Marine with the fierce whisper identified himself as Herrera and agreed to the interviews as the bunker's other occupant left along with the quiet Marine. In the gloom of the bunker, Herrera required little coaxing. I asked him to describe Garrison, and the description was forthcoming.

Garrison, explained Herrera, was one of the 'Old Breed.' The term was popularized by E.B. Sledge, a mortarman during World War II, who wrote a first-hand account of his experiences at the battles of Peleliu and Okinawa during the Pacific campaign. The book,



SGT. JESSE STENCE

**CAMP HANSEN, Helmand province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** — Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment pay their final respects to Sgt. Joseph Garrison, a squad leader with Fox Company, 2/8, during a memorial service here, June 15. Garrison, a native of Clarion, Pa., made the ultimate sacrifice during combat operations in Northern Marjah, June 6.

titled "With the Old Breed," is renowned for its blunt, often graphic accounts of combat and the Marines who 'charged toward the bullets' to win hard-fought battles against a formidable foe. Sledge recalls a bygone era of U.S. military history, when battles claimed tens of thousands of lives, and the nation's very existence was directly threatened by enemies with clear intentions to dominate the world. "To live by the gun, to die by the gun" was a lifestyle for him and the Marines he led in combat," said Herrera.

Herrera spoke of Garrison's leadership and charisma without a trace of hesitation, and I sensed that he was one step ahead of the rest of the squad. Outside, the Marines seemed to be at the beginning of their search for meaning, but in the solitude of the bunker, Herrera seemed to be building a religion around Garrison's short yet significant life.

"We celebrate (his) life today and forevermore," eulogized Herrera, "because we are a true testament to his selflessness so that we may take one more breath of life to continue this epic journey."

Inside the bunker, Herrera's interview was brief but poignant, and when I couldn't immediately think of a follow-up to my initial query, Herrera asked, "Any more questions?" in a respectful yet matter-of-fact tone.

I sensed that the interview had unofficially ended, yet I managed to elicit one more response. 'Is there a memory you have that sums up Garrison's character?' I asked.

Herrera didn't seem annoyed that I had asked; instead, he nodded and replied that there are many. Before proceeding, he hesitated for a split second like a young man selecting a collared shirt from a well-stocked closet. Then he told me the story about the sniper Garrison's squad brought down.

The squad had been pinned down for hours. Reports about a sniper were floating around, and the squad's morale was shaken. Effective insurgent snipers are fairly uncommon, and the Marines knew their lives were in a rare sort of danger. Finally, Garrison, who had a reputation around the battalion as a hell of a poker player, had enough. He stood up from his covered position, baiting the sniper to take a shot. If the sniper fired, the Marines could locate him. The sniper folded and was later neutralized by 2/8, but more significantly, the squad knew their leader valued their lives more than his own, and they came to believe he was impervious to death.

"Indeed, the world is a lesser place with-

out you," Herrera said during the ceremony. "And indeed, the world is a far better place because of you. (His) family and friends ... all know this, but more than that, the Marines he fought, sweated, bled and died with, past and present, know that." Yet when I think of my brief encounter with Herrera and the Marines in Garrison's squad, I'm sure that Garrison is still with them in some form.

In fact, as I pour over the messy cursive containing Herrera's beautiful remembrance, I'm struck by something peculiar. The first letters of the pronouns referring to Garrison are capitalized. The quasi-Biblical phrases — "to live by the gun, to die by the gun" -- and proper pronouns converge to create the subtle impression of someone immortal.

Herrera couldn't have known his letter would be used for an article, which makes its content all the more striking. In the purity of his private thoughts, he seems to regard Garrison as an enduring spirit that continues to watch over the squad.

Now, as I think about Herrera's longing — "To share another firefight" — there is a small glimmer of understanding. Garrison, Herrera and their Marines faced death together and developed a closeness that is only shared between brothers-at-arms. For a brief moment, my eyes met Herrera's, and I vicariously felt the allure of a far off battlefield. The concept, at least, has cemented in my mind, for few places exist where reality is colored so vividly. In the modern world, society's web of safety nets and comfort insulate the individual from the direct repercussions of his actions, but on the battlefield, cause and effect is a simple function with dramatic outputs.

Consequently, each man knows his role and understands his value. And Herrera's obvious conviction convinces me that Garrison is still watching over his squad. Although I never met Garrison, I see his spirit in Herrera's smoldering eyes, and I can't help but feel that death has actually elevated the fallen squad leader. He now lives within the hearts of those he once led, making his courage and dedication their own.

*Editor's Notes: Garrison made the final sacrifice, June 6, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Marjah District, Helmand province. The memorial service took place June 15, at Camp Hansen, the headquarters of 2/8, in Northern Marjah. Sergeant Garrison is survived by his parents, Joseph Garrison and Natalie Schoonover, and his step-sister Jamie Hale.*

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

### Briefs

**Naha Consulate Visit**  
State Department personnel from the U.S. Consulate in Naha are scheduled to 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.

**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.

**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., 11 a.m. — 1 p.m. and from 1 p.m. — 5:30 p.m. for the sandwich bar on weekdays. The special shuttle bus will continue to run during the dinner and dinner/brunch meal periods.

**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, etc. To recover lost items or for more information, call 253-4929.

**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. call 253-6161 for details.

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

### 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 very well and clean. Asking \$3,800 OBO. For more information call Mike at 080-3346-1290 or 0827-28-5264.

### 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 for the position include: applicants must be U.S. citizen, a minimum four year degree, five years experience, must be 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.

**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.

## Emergency Phone Numbers

- Antiterrorism Force protection: 253-ATFP (2837)
- Life, limb or loss of vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.
- For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-3303.
- To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.
- Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours.
- For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835.
- You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

## BOOT SCOOTIN' ROUNDUP

🎧 live 1-hour radio show featuring the best country music. Kick up your boots 9 - 10 a.m. Mondays-Thursdays on Power 1575.



# 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



Col. James C. Stewart, station commanding officer, presents the command sword to Sgt. Maj. Steven Brown during the station sergeant major relief-and-appointment ceremony at the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 hanger here June 17. The passing of the sword symbolizes the passing of responsibilities from one sergeant major to another. 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, July 1, 2011**  
7 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13)

**Saturday, July 2, 2011**  
1 p.m. Green Lantern (PG-13)  
*Premiere*  
5 p.m. Green Lantern (PG-13)

**Sunday, July 3, 2011**  
1 p.m. Hoodwinked Too! : Hood vs. Evil (PG)  
4 p.m. Something Borrow (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Super 8 (PG-13)

**Monday, July 4, 2011**  
1 p.m. Hoodwinked Too! : Hood vs. Evil (PG)

**Tuesday, July 5, 2011**  
Theater closed

**Wednesday, July 6, 2011**  
Theater closed

**Thursday, July 7, 2011**  
1 p.m. Soul Surfer (PG) *Last Showing*  
7 p.m. Scream 4 (R) *Last Showing*

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, banana nut muffin, quick apple coffee cake, quick apple coffee cake, apple crunch, marble cake with chocolate frosting, nacadamian cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, jellow parfait.

**Tuesday**  
Chicken gunbo soup, shrimp scampi, barbecue pork ribs, sweet and sour chicken, peas with onions, wax beans, steamed rice, oven browned potaotes, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, pecan rolls, cherry crunch, Banana cake with chocolate frosting, sugar cookies, chocolate pudding parfait, jello parfait.

**Wednesday**  
Tomato soup, lasagna, roast pork, fried breaded shrimp, au gratin potatoes, steamed rice, whole kernal 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, 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.



Team members from RMD Supply B attempt to dodge the ball as they participated in the round-robin dodgeball tournament at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here June 24. They were unable to win a game but held on throughout the tournament .

## Service members duck, dodge, weave to victory

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNIAPPROACH  
STAFF

Military personnel competed in a round-robin dodgeball tournament at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here June 24.

Marines and sailors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Combat Logistics Company 36 created eight teams to participate in the seven-round, round-robin dodgeball tournament.

At the end of the 28-game tournament, Team Epic and Aiming for the Fat One were tied with six wins and one loss each, resulting in a final tie-breaker game.

Team Epic managed to knock off all six Aiming for the Fat One team members on the court during the 29th and final game of the tournament, becoming the champions.

"We try to have a well-rounded sports and activities program for the Marines in the community," said Thomas F. Durning, IronWorks Gym athletic director. "Plus, people like to come out and let out a little aggression and throw the dodgeballs at other commands."

This tournament is put on twice a year. Each time new teams form, new names are acquired and new abilities tested in this fast-paced, sometimes fierce, dodgeball tournament.

"It's great physical fitness; it's great exercise; it's a different form of PT," said Durning.

Although this tournament took place during the participants' lunch time, they didn't seem to mind as they dodged, ducked, dipped and dived balls and returned fire with force.

"Last year we had a team and we came in second," said Kameron D. Olson, Team Epic team member. "We had three different teams because we have a lot of people who like to support our squadron, and we wanted to try and take the championship."

Team Epic kept their wins tied with Aiming for the Fat Ones throughout the tournament.

"It was a ride coming this far," said Olson. "There were a couple games where we thought we might lose. We were scared about the two games against the (Aiming for the Fat One)."

The Aiming for the Fat Ones put up a good fight as it competed against Team Epic for the championship.

"We wanted to bring the trophy to MALS-12," said Kevin M. Polosky, Aiming for the Fat One team member.

This competition was not only good for the team members to work together, but it also helped with the camaraderie between units.

"It's disappointing that we made it this far and lost," said Polosky. "Our team had a good shot, we worked together and made it to the finals."

This tournament is not only open to military members, but also to all Status of Forces Agreement and Japanese Security Guard personnel.

As a semi-annual event, one tournament is held in the summer season and one in the winter.

Dates for the next dodgeball tournament have yet to be decided.

If you would like to participate in the next dodgeball tournament, be sure to check in with the IronWorks Gym and check the Marine Corps Community Services e-mails as the winter season rolls around.

## Aiming for the Fat One epically loses to Team Epic



Kameron Olson, a Team Epic team member, looks back to his teammates as he holds two dodgeballs, listening to the advice they have during the final game between Team Epic and Aiming for the Fat Ones during a round-robin dodgeball tournament at the IronWorks Gym sports court here June 24. Team Epic and Aiming for the Fat One showed aggression toward one another as they scraped to the end, resulting in Team Epic triumphing over Aiming for the Fat One.



James Harden, a Team Bang team member, hurls the ball towards an opposing team member by during a round-robin dodgeball tournament at the IronWorks Gym sports court here June 24. While Team Bang did not win they put up a good fight and were supportive winners.



# Torii edge CLC-36 Dragons, 8-7



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Bruce L. Best Jr., Team Torii short stop, swings with all his might during Team Torii's close nail-biting 8-7 win against the CLC-36 Dragons in an intramural softball game at the Penny Lake softball fields here June 22. Both teams stepped up late in the game to keep the score close, making spectacular diving catches.

## Torii, CLC-36 Dragons fight it out in close-knit battle

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

Team Torii defeated the CLC-36 Dragons with a score of 8-7 in an eight-inning intramural softball game at the Penny Lake softball fields here June 22.

Bruce L. Best Jr., Torii short stop, gave Torii its first base runner with a single.

Jamie L. Mohn, Torii pitcher, drove Best home with a double to center field.

Two high-hanging fly balls resulted in two quick outs for Torii before it was able to bring two more runners home in the first inning.

Next up to the plate, was Adam J. Sanders, Torii outfielder.

Sanders hit a fly ball to center

field.

The CLC-36 outfielders misplaced the ball, resulting in Mohn and Sanders running home. Matt O. Yevtich, Torii centerfielder, popped up to center ending the inning.

The Dragons took the plate at the bottom of the first.

Samuel L. Operle, CLC-36 Dragons first baseman, made several foul balls during his time at plate, but was eventually walked to first base.

Steven E. Regan, Dragons centerfielder, was up next to bat. Regan hit a single to left field. Operle sprinted to third base as the ball sailed to the left field, but was thrown out by the outfielder.

Darrin W. Sellers, Dragons third baseman, hit a double to center field.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

James C. Dixon, CLC-36 Dragons pitcher, floats a pitch in the Dragons' close 8-7 intramural softball game loss against Team Torii at the Penny Lake softball field here June 22. Powerful wind gusts kept the game close, forcing many deep balls to hang in the air longer, being picked off or becoming fouls.

Kameron D. Olson, Dragons right fielder, brought the two runners home with a line drive between second and third base. The Dragons were able to tack on another run, ending the inning in a 3-3 tie.

Strong winds from the second inning to the end made hitting fly balls difficult.

Many times throughout the game, several fly balls were ruled as foul balls because of strong wind gusts.

"The wind definitely affected our play," said Best.

"It was hard to communicate with each other because of it," he added.

The wind also caused many deep fly balls to hang in the air longer, allowing both teams opportunities to pick off hits, resulting in neither team making any more runs home during the rest of the second inning. The score stood 3-3.

During the top of the third inning, Torii came out on top with three runs ahead of the CLC-36 Dragons.

With two players out and Roy L. Clayton, Torii short stop, and Shaun A. Whitecavage, Torii third baseman, on second and third base, Ryan A. Lenac, Torii second baseman, hit a double fly ball deep to center field, bringing both players home and made the score 5-3.

Mohn was able to drive Lenac home during his plate appearance.

The score was now 6-3.

The Dragons refused to be beat down and responded in kind by posting two runs in the bottom of the third, making the score 6-5 at the end of the third.

The tension was high for the next several innings as the two teams were stood at a stalemate neither one accepting defeat.

Both teams tried going for deep hits to the outfield, but strong winds fought against them and continued to hang the balls high in the air allowing the outfielders

easy pickings or turning the fly balls into fouls.

"Our hitting was our biggest weakness," said Wylie L. Rakestraw, Torii first baseman. "We couldn't string enough hits together."

Feeling the tension in the air, both dugouts shouted advice, telling batters to aim for line drives and not fly balls.

It wasn't until the eighth inning when both teams used that advice.

Torii used a series of line drives to bring home two runners, Keith A. Applegate, Torii relief hitter, and Whitecavage.

Torii now stood ahead with a score of 8-5.

The Dragons had one final opportunity to win at the bottom of the eighth inning.

Through a series of line drives and miscommunication cues by Torii in the outfield, the CLC-36 Dragons were able to bring two runners home, making the score 8-7.

The CLC-36 Dragons were not able to get any more runners home.

Torii stepped up its defense, making several diving catches to hold off the Dragons.

At the conclusion of the game, both teams gave their reactions to such a close game.

"It gets nervous in games like this," said Delshan R. Martinez, Dragons shortstop.

"We managed to tie it up," he said. "We've got to stay focused in games like this."

Torii, on the other hand, felt its production was not where it should be.

"Eight runs was the fewest runs we've had all seasons," said Rakestraw.

"That's frustrating," said Rakestraw.

"But close-knit games like this make us play better as a team," he added.

This game was one of the last regular season games before the playoffs, which started Tuesday.