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ULTIMATE BUILDING MACHINE®

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Takes team Torii out | P. 11

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 30 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

MWSS-171 trains to provide combat service support

CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 continued to conduct simulated field-training exercises at Penny Lake here July 28.

The squadron is slated to continue training until Wednesday.

Combat engineers were called out during the first few days of the exercise to help set up the exterior.

"We help set up a lot of the forward operating bases on deployment," said Pfc. Tyler Teigen, MWSS-171 combat engineer. "We specialize in everything from wood-framing to demolition, building fortifications and taking fortifications down."

Marines also set up work sites and secured the outside perimeter before simulated operations began.

"We had to set up concertina



CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Sgt. Adam Smith, Pfc. Tyler Teigen, and Lance Cpl. David Waldbillig, MWSS-171 combat technicians set up concertina wire around the perimeter of the simulated combat operations center at Penny Lake here July 28. Combat engineers were called out during the first few days of the exercise to help set up the exterior.

SEE **SUPPORT** ON PAGE 3

Japan-based Marines hone CAS skills during Talisman Sabre 2011

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

HIGHRANGE TOWNSVILLE FIELD TRAINING AREA, Australia — Talisman Sabre 2011 progressed to its final week with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 Black Knights continuing to run training scenarios side-by-side with other American and Australian forces here July 25.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial exercise designed to test and improve on Australian and American forces' ability to conduct joint-combined task force operations. The exercise focuses on improving combat readiness and interoperability of participating units.

American and Australian Forces throughout Queensland, the Northern Territory, and neighboring naval areas have been conducting the exercise since July 11.

During Talisman Sabre 2011, the Black Knights have been conducting scenarios to focus on improving their ability to provide joint close-air support for integrated American and Australian forces on the ground more than 400 miles south from here in Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area, Australia.

Close-air support training involved aerial units' simulated attacks against aggressors after friendly ground units provided their coordinates to pinpoint the pilots' attack.

"(The training) is basically just working things out and both participants understand joint close-air support and everything involved with that," said Capt. John Vaquerano, a VMFA-314 pilot and Section 4 officer in charge. It's important everyone participating

SEE **HONE** ON PAGE 3

Japan-based units close out Talisman Sabre 2011

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TOWNSVILLE, Australia — Japan-based Marine units brought their portion of exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 to an end here July 27.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial exercise meant to test and improve Australian and American forces' ability to conduct joint and combined task force operations. The exercise focuses on refining the combat readiness and interoperability of the participating units. American and Australian military forces throughout Queensland, the Northern Territory, and neighboring naval areas have been conducting the exercise since July 11.

Japan-based Marine units participating in this year's Talisman Sabre included service members from Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Squadron 4, and 5th Air

SEE **END** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

‘Embrace the Adventure’

LT. ROBERT MILLS
DEPUTY COMMAND
CHAPLAIN

Probably the greatest constant in the military is the constant movement.

Every two to three years throughout the entire career of most U.S. military members, we pack up and move somewhere else.

Of course, once in a while, you meet someone who has successfully ‘homesteaded’ for a long time in a single area, but for most of us, PCS is the name of the game.

Some people find this constant cycle difficult, but for most of us, — especially those with a strong sense of adventure, we actually start to ‘itch’ after about two years or so in one place and start to think about what is next and where we’re going to serve next.

We start looking at the lists of prospective billets and begin discussions with our monitor or

detailer, trying to see where we’ll end up.

Since we’re military people, sometimes we get what we want and sometimes we don’t.

A wise man (Forrest Gump) once said, “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re going to get.”

Maybe Iwakuni was the dream station you were hoping to get when you first looked at the list, or maybe this was the last place you wanted to end up.

Either way, your happiness here depends largely on one thing and one thing only — your attitude.

If you decide every day that you are going to find some good here, and there’s plenty of good to be found here, then you will find ways to be happy, even though this wasn’t your first, second or third choice.

On the other hand, if Iwakuni was the place you were hoping for, then you are super-blessed to be here!

Be aware that sometimes the

reality of a particular duty station or billet does not measure up to our expectations or dreams.

But again, it does not mean you must have a miserable tour here.

There are many positive ways to occupy your time, enrich your mind, learn more things and have a lot of fun here in Iwakuni.

These thoughts are close to my heart right now, because in a few weeks, my family and I will be leaving Iwakuni after three and a half years.

Our next duty station holds out the same promise as Iwakuni does — “Bring your A-game and a great attitude because there are many opportunities here!”

Of course, we are eyeballs-deep in preparations for pack-out, arranging for transportation of our car, working on selling our van and all the other things that we have to do before we leave.

In all the packing, one thing that we can’t afford to forget though, and this is critically important, is our good attitude.

For our family, Yokosuka is next, and we are greatly looking forward to embracing the adventure.

Blessings and peace!

August Promotions

MALS-12

Pfc.

Blount, Jonathan D.

Lance Cpl.

Benz, Kellie E.
Chapman, Justin D.
Crothers, Rory E.
Figueroa, Eduardo R.
Gema, Christopher I.
Gudino, Carlos
Roden, Dustin R.
Rodriguezmacias, Saira
Rybicki, Nathan H.

Cpl.

Alvarado, Rosbel A.
Cepeda, Rachel R.
Colchao, Cesar J.
Doyle, Corey T.
Dzierzynski, Derrick J.
Gonzalez, Matthew D.
Mata Jr., Reynaldo
Petit, Brian C.
Woodring, Thomas J.

Gunnery Sgt.

Navar, Steve A.

Detachment B

Lance Cpl.

Ahmad, Saddam

Cpl.

Alldis, Brian J.
Feldman, Brandon S.
Stoffa, Eric M.

Gunnery Sgt.

Telford, Luke S.

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.

Bentley, Robert A.
Broussard, Evan C.
Edmonds, Jacob O.
Lopez, Angel R.
Philpott, Thomas E.
Ragueros, Eymard C.
Taylor, Thomas J.

Cpl.

Acuna III, Leonardo I.
Buhrl, Devan A.
McGee, Trevor R.
Unger, Alex J.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.

Bailey, Adam R.
Caldwell, Thomas H.
Ceballos, Cody F.
Cornejo, Eduardo J.
Hornung, Kenneth R.
Jordan, Samuel M.
Martinez, Sebastian M.
Moran, Jesse R.
Mortiz, Mishael B.
Phelps, Derek A.
Price, Brianna L.
Reyes, James G.
Silloway, Tyler A.
Taylor Jr., Eric D.
Teigen, Tyler D.
Teneyck Jr., David J.
Treme II, Jeffrey L.

Cpl.

Lawson, Clinton D.
Schiaffino, Antonio M.

Gunnery Sgt.

Francis, Mark A.
Velasquez, Jesus A.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.

Alvarez, Alejandra
Clark, Dakota J.
Cornier Jr., Calixto J.
Costorf, Bryan K.
Hernandezmoore, Emilio J.
McComb, Alexander J.
Payne, Jordan E.
Pike, Wade A.
Ramirez, Philip J.
Vicins, Mark A.

Cpl.

Martinez, Roberto

Sgt.

Olguin, Andrea M.

Staff Sgt.

Ramirez, Esteban M.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.

AndersonAndujar, Jairo D.
Calloway, Jessica C.
Navarro, Steve E.
Pence, Remington C.

Sgt.

Hill, Cody L.
Vang, Mai Y.

MAG-12

Lance Cpl.

Barnett, Vincent G.

Cpl.

Deverdier, Chaz T.
Hill, Brian F.

Gunnery Sgt.

Rendall, Robert E.

Japan-based Marines conduct CAS scenarios

HONE FROM PAGE 1

understands the doctrine of close-air support to have a successful mission no matter the situation, he added.

Throughout the exercise, aerial and ground units conducted training in progressive stages. They started with Australian joint terminal attack controllers providing coordinates to the Black Knights, which they then proceeded to drop live ordnance.

Although both participants spoke English, challenges arose along the way.

“There are a few language differences,” said Vaquerano. “Things as simple as they call small ponds or small bodies of water dams — so us, we’re looking for the type of dam we are used to.”

Vaquerano said they have been able to work through differences and believes both sides are becoming more proficient in conducting close-air support operations.

To build on what participating units learned, scenarios involved Black Knights providing close-air support to friendly forces during ground maneuvers or having VMFA-314 F/A-18 Hornets escort C-17s conducting aerial assaults with paratroopers into an area. Simulated ordnance was used during training due to safety concerns.

Aside from scenarios, VMFA-314 had an opportunity to conduct unit-level training here with 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company Marines based out of Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan.

“This training is good,” said Capt. Kevin Shields, 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company Supporting Arms Liaison Team D leader. “It prepares us for our upcoming deployment and keeps us current as joint

terminal attack controllers). Every six months we need to have a certain number of controls so this keeps us current all through our upcoming deployment.”

During unit-level training here, 5th ANGLICO Marines guided pilots to their targets via radio and a portable lightweight designator rangefinder, which sends a laser to point out the target for the pilot in air. Sometimes smoke, haze and lighting conditions in the area have forced the JTAC Marines to revert back to basic skills.

“We have excellent radio operators, excellent communication Marines,” said Shields. “With the laser going down because of the smoke in the area, we have to fall back to our other skills — just a talk-on instead of using the advanced tools. We just tell them and describe the target via voice.”

The 5th ANGLICO Marines have also had an opportunity to work with their Australian counterparts.

“There have been no problems at all,” said Australian Squadron Leader Rod Whannell, 4th Element Group range safety officer here. “It’s all been good and the Marines have done a tremendous job.”

Whannell said he appreciated the opportunity to work with and see how Marines have conducted their training to learn a slightly different way of doing things.

Other Japan-based service members participating in the exercise include service members from Marine Aircraft Group 12 Headquarters, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Attack Squadron 214, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18 and Marine Air Control Squadron 4.

MWSS-171 build simulated COC

SUPPORT FROM PAGE 1

wire to protect everything on the inside, so enemy cannot breach it,” said Teigen.

Inside the small combat operations center, Marines set up tents with sections for each department to conduct operations, including a briefing room for periods of instruction.

MWSS-171 conducts field training exercises at Penny Lake periodically to familiarize Marines with equipment and procedures to building a combat operations center in a forward-deployed environment.

Marines familiarized themselves with proper tactical data systems, hardware and software.

“As a data section, we incorporate the internal network as far as pulling different services, and then we also incorporate radio to go through our network to actually work through smart cables so each individual can listen to the network and be up to speed with what’s going on,” said Sgt. Cody Bowden, MWSS-171 tactical data

network technician.

The training is applied directly to operations conducted during various exercises including the annual Amphibious Landing Exercise in the Philippines and Southern Frontier in Australia.

During deployments, MWSS-171 falls under the command element, Marine Aircraft Group 12, and provides the combat service support element of the Marine Air Ground Task Force in forms of logistics, engineering, communications and other support elements.

“There are five main things that MWSS-171 does,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Kelly, MWSS-171 radio chief. “We do expeditionary air fields, which means we have the capability to build airfields out of nothing. We have Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting so if a plane crashes we are there to put the fire out. We provide fuels to refuel the aircraft and we have Explosive Ordnance Disposal, which deals with ammunition for the aircraft.”

Kelly said operations are fairly easy for MWSS-171 to

set up, and the squadron is trained to operate anywhere in any environment. COCs are built for operational flexibility and tactical employment.

What started off as training for the upcoming PHIBLEX deployment to the Philippines turned into a training opportunity for the squadron at home.

“It started off as a communications exercise for just the S-6 section, and then it turned into watch officer/watch chief certification and training for our air-to-ground forward operations,” said Kelly.

Kelly said training is also important for new Marines as they prepare for upcoming exercises and deployments.

“Because PHIBLEX got dwindled down, it also turned into an operation so the new staff and officers with MWSS-171 can see how we operate and what we do for air-to-ground support.”

Marines were also briefed on security measures and procedures to allowing only personnel with secret clearances entrance access to the COC.

Talisman Sabre 2011 ends

END FROM PAGE 1

Naval Gunfire Liaison Company.

Maj. Gen. (select) William D. Beydler, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, visited Marines here to help bring the exercise to a close and to see the outcome of the exercise.

Beydler said the squadrons have been able to meet many of their goals during Talisman Sabre and have taken advantage of the training ground provided here.

“We were able to get a lot of individual training codes done here that we can’t get done in other places,” said Beydler. “We got a lot done here because it was focused training and we’ve had good (training) ranges. It would have taken us a lot longer to get the same type of training done in Okinawa or Iwakuni.”

More than 400 Japan-based American service members participated in the exercise which logged 167 sorties, totaling 340.5 hours in the air by the VMFA-314 Black Knights.

The squadron originally planned for 150 sorties at the start of the exercise.

During the exercise, the Black Knights had the opportunity to train with a variety of live ordnance at the Highrange Townsville Field Training Area.

They were also able to participate in training scenarios more than 400 miles south of here at the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area. Training was designed to test and refine their close-air support capabilities.

The Black Knights and supporting Marine aviation units were also given the unique opportunity to train with their Australian counterparts.

“They are one of our primary allies; them and Great Britain,” said Maj. Michael Lepore, VMFA-314 operations officer. “We are working with them overseas in Afghanistan hand-in-hand, so the training we do here is going to carry over there and building those relationships — teamwork and understanding in how we do business is going to pay dividends, not only in Afghanistan but any other conflicts in the future where we may have to serve together.”

Although participating American and Australian units have been allies for many years now, the exercise provided different units with challenges to meet and deal with along the way. Some challenges identified were communication and different ways of conducting operations.

“Eventually toward the middle of the second week and by the end of the exercise everything was running smoothly,” said Lepore.

Another challenge Marines here faced was the fallout of another Marine squadron due to transportation issues. All ordnance allotted to that squadron was transferred over to the Black Knights, which they took advantage of to conduct more unit-level training at the Highrange Townsville Field Training Area. Marines were able to turn setbacks into training opportunities.

“I think it was good for Marines all across the board to do the bilateral training with the Australians and to build those relationships, that interoperability,” said Lepore.

Although the Japan-based squadrons here finished their portion of Talisman Sabre July 27, other American and Australian units are scheduled to conduct training until July 29.

The Black Knights and the supporting aviation units here are now participating in Southern Frontier 2011 which started Monday.

Children learn to make pins roll during bowling camp

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

Youth Sports hosted a bowling camp at the Strike Zone here Monday-Wednesday, as part of the ongoing series of Marine Corps Community Service Command sports camps that ended Friday. Approximately 45 children showed up to the camp, which focused on giving station residents' children a chance to take part in group sports and become accustomed to interacting with others and learning sportsmanship.

"The camp's purpose was to get the kids out and spend their summer playing a sport they may have not played before, something new," said John R. Baltazar III, MCCS youth sports coordinator. "Youth sports' biggest drive is to teach kids sportsmanship and how to play well with others. This is a small base. They're going to have to learn to know one another and play with one another."

The camp is the third one so far this summer, covering four different sports. Earlier in the summer, camps covered basketball and soccer.

The focus on bowling was something unusual to the camp compared to the sports listed above. Many of the children taking part in the camp had never truly bowled before.

"There are a few who are picking up on the techniques we're teaching them," said Baltazar. "They're learning how to actually push the ball instead of just throwing and dropping it down the lane. We have two more days to perfect it but they are learning."

The first day of the camp focused on establishing the proper form and technique to bowl. The basic terms and etiquette of the game were also incorporated.

The next day sought to refine those skills and continue to hone and fine-tune them.

The last day of the camp was spent reviewing the children's progress from the past several days.

Along with Baltazar, several volunteers were on hand to help children get a better feeling and understanding of the game. Many of the volunteers were the parents of the participants.

"It's actually been really fun," said Amanda E. Snay, a MCCS camp volunteer. "I'm an amateur when it comes to this but they wanted people to come out and help."

Though children listened attentively, they still laughed and joked among themselves as volunteers worked with them on their overall techniques.

"It's more about the experience for the kids," said Snay. They're

not going to be perfect at what they're doing. It's more about them having fun overall."

Some children had plans to attend only the volleyball camp but decided to take part in the bowling one as well.

"Our teachers made it fun," said Tenacity L. Clayton, 14, camp participant. "They kept us laughing while we were going through the exercises."

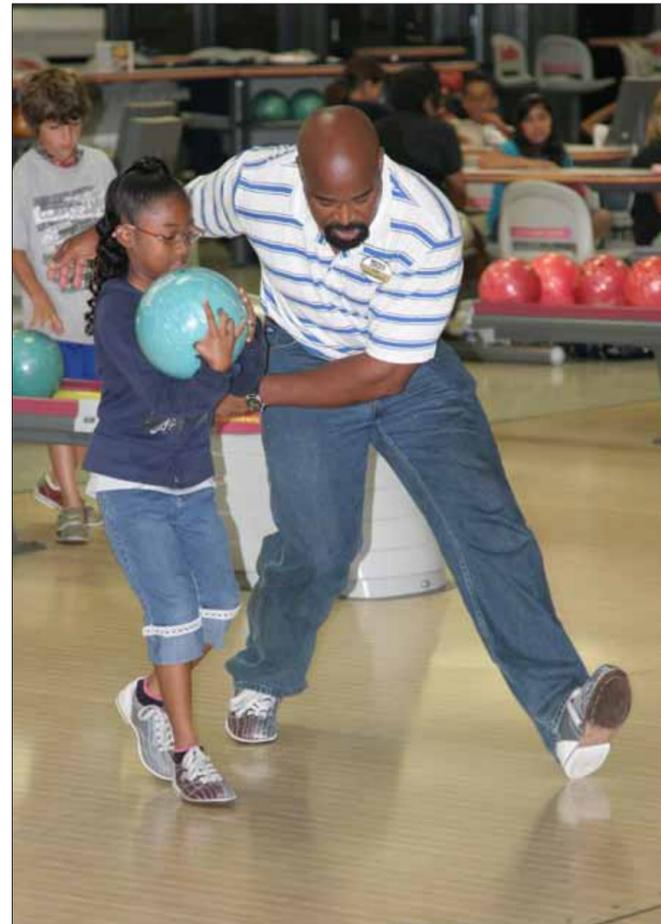
With temperatures steadily rising over the next several weeks and the startup of school right around the corner, camp can often serve a dual purpose in getting children out of the house and also introducing them to other children before the start of the school year.

"This helps (children) to get out more and socialize, especially for those new to the station," said Clayton. "I think it's also beneficial because the camps help out in the summer because a lot of kids stay inside and play video games. This helps to bring them out."

Bowling camp, along with the volleyball camp, are a part of a pilot series to see if children are willing to come out for such events which may eventually lead to these sports becoming seasonal for Youth Sports.

The camp also brought in a more diverse group of children in comparison to the other camps.

"I had a lot of kids come up to me after some of the camps were over and tell me how much fun they heard their friends were having," said Baltazar. "So, I definitely think that had a much bigger



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR. John R. Baltazar III, Marine Corps Community Services youth sports coordinator, instructs Riana E. Coffman, 8, on proper form and technique during the bowling camp as part of the MCCS Command sports camp at the Strike Zone here Monday. The camp sought to teach children the fundamentals, etiquette, and techniques of bowling. The camp lasted from Monday-Wednesday. The last camp for the summer will be volleyball from Thursday-Friday.

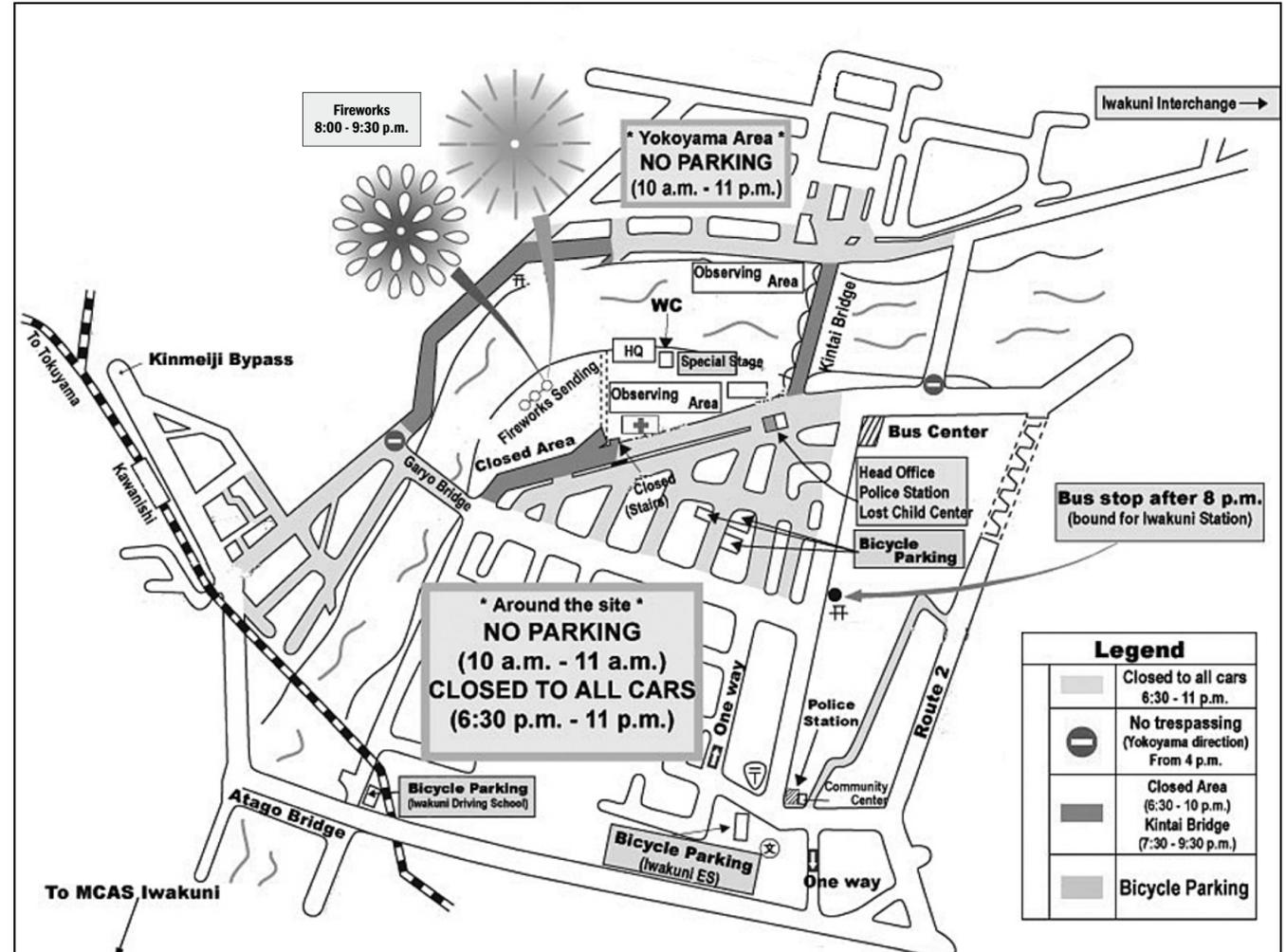
part to play in the turnout. We've actually got 12 kids who are 12 and up out here. So it really is diverse."

Baltazar said with the camps' turnout growing steadily since the start of the summer, it may hopefully be a matter of time before the camps turn into full-fledged regular season sports.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR. Camille N. Peet, Marine Corps Community Services youth sports assistant, guides Yuki G. Bengs, 7, as she prepares to throw the bowling ball down the lane during the MCCS Command sports camp at the Strike Zone here Monday. The bowling camp was one of several offered throughout the summer to give station resident children an opportunity to get out and learn a new sport and interact with other children.

44th Nishikigawa River Festival



Traffic restrictions are in effect Saturday near the Kintai area to make way for the 44th Nishikigawa River Festival.

There will be no parking near the firework launching area from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and the area is closed to all traffic from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Designated bicycle parking spaces are available at Iwakuni Driving School (English sign at entrance), Iwakuni Elementary School and Iwakuni 1-Chome.

No swimming or rafting is allowed at designated areas on the map.

The traffic restriction map

Shuttle buses are available between JR Iwakuni Station and the Kintai Bridge (approximately 20 minutes), and from Marifu Elementary School to the bridge (approximately 15 minutes).

Parking space is available at Marifu Elementary School.

Bus schedule

- Outbound to Kintai Bridge
 - JR Iwakuni Station (bus stop No. 2), first departure 5 p.m.
 - Marifu Elementary School, first departure 4:30 p.m.
- Inbound to JR Iwakuni Station (via Marifu Elementary School)
 - Kintai Bridge, last departure 10 p.m.

Fare (one-way):

- JR Iwakuni Station – Kintai Bridge 240 yen for adult, 120 yen for elementary school students or younger
 - Marifu Elementary School – Kintai Bridge 210 yen for adult, 110 yen for elementary school students or younger
- ** Shuttle buses will depart once full. Times may fluctuate due to gridlock and unforeseen events.

**In the event that there is bad weather the festival will be postponed until August 27.

ULTIMATE BUILDING MACHINE

proves to be mobile construction beast

Step 1:

CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

The steel used for the Ultimate Building Machine starts on a large roll, which is fed through the machine where it is shaped into a more curvy steel frame compatible for construction.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer Marines completed a training evolution July 28, building the first Ultimate Building Machine K-span structure on station. "We got to do things here that would have taken hundreds of thousands of dollars, it seemed, to take it to Hawaii for the same training," said Gunnery Sgt. Bernie Camarillo, combat engineer platoon staff noncommissioned officer in charge.

The training was conducted in preparation for exercise Lava Viper 2012 in Hawaii, where MWSS-171 combat engineers are slated to construct three UBM-style case band buildings.

"The UBM is an all-terrain, mobile machine capable of producing durable steel structures in days rather than weeks or months. The machine is able to shape, cut and curve thin sheets of steel for construction in minutes.

"The K-span is a really good expedient, quick and more logical

way to cover storage," said Camarillo. During past exercises, Marines used tents to store equipment, which can sometimes be compromised under extreme wind, rain and cold climates.

"A big part of our job is vertical construction as combat engineers," said Sgt. Kyle W. Edens, MWSS-171 combat engineer foreman. "So if we can employ this machine the way that it can be employed, then we can build more hardened structures vice tents."

The new case band structures are a sturdier and more efficient solution to storing gear and equipment during exercises for a list of reasons.

"It's really cheap to build because it's thin steel rather than lumber and dry wall and everything else that usually goes into building a house or structure," said Edens. "You can add lighting, climate control units, personnel doors on the ends of the building the sky is the limit with these buildings."

Throughout the training evolution, the Marines were not only familiarized with operating the UBM, but they also gained experience in properly calibrating, assembling and erecting steel frames as they would in Lava Viper.

Each time the UBM is started for a new project, it takes

approximately three test runs to get the ideal calibrations and measurements. These pieces of steel used for testing become scrap metal and cannot be used during construction.

During Lava Viper, it will be important for Marines to have the UBM up and running with as little test runs as possible.

"In Lava Viper, we're only going to get the exact amount of steel that we need, so we can't afford to scrap metal or we'll be short," said Lance Cpl. David B. Wilson, MWSS-171 combat engineer. "Getting training here, everybody's getting the hang of it. So by the time we get out there, it's going to be a lot easier."

Edens said the decision has yet to be made whether to tear down the UBM case band structure or to use it as a temporary storage facility for the MWSS-171 Marines here.

Step 4:



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Pfc. Kenneth Hornung, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer, uses a pre-seamer on a piece of steel during a training evolution at the MWSS-171 lot here July 28. The pre-seamer allows other pieces of steel to align with one another during assembly.



Step 5:



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Lance Cpl. Alan Smith, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer, uses hand crimpers to seam two pieces of steel together during a Ultimate Building Machine K-span training evolution at the MWSS-171 combat engineer lot here July 28. After three pieces of steel are seamed together, Marines use a Terex crane to erect the steel and mount it to the structure's foundation.

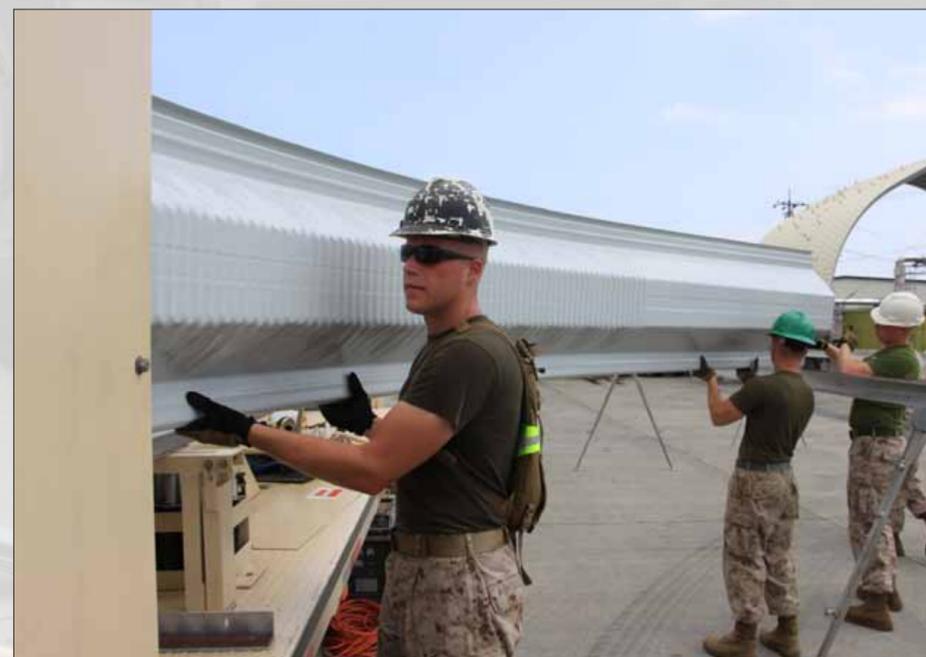
Step 2:



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines guide a piece of steel into the panel curver of the Ultimate Building Machine during a UBM K-span training evolution at the MWSS-171 combat engineer lot here July 28. After the sheet of steel is formed, the curver bends the straight piece of steel into a U-like shape. The rounded portion of the steel will serve as the high point or the roof of the structure.

Step 3:



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineers guide a piece of steel out of the Ultimate Building Machine during a UBM K-span training evolution at the MWSS-171 combat engineer lot here July 28. This is the final transformation before the steel moves to the assembly phase.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

An American Hero: Georgia native loses leg, returns to combat zone

CPL. JEFF DREW
2ND MARINE DIVISION

CAMP HANSON, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Pouring rain drenched the streets of Ramadi, Iraq, mixing with the rancid stench of backed-up sewage canals. The knee-deep concoction made the night patrol difficult for the Marines, but they had a mission to accomplish.

Enemy snipers had become a problem for the Marines of Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, in 2006. A four-story building near one of their observation posts offered the enemy a perfect, elevated position from which to fire at the Marines. On Oct. 14, a squad of Marines began moving into position to cordon off the building in order for engineers to destroy the stairs and effectively disable the building as an enemy firing position.

The water level rose to nearly waist level as Sgt. Stephen Smith, 2nd Battalion armory chief, led his fire team through the streets to their objective. Smith turned and gave his team the hand signal to spread out when the patrol stopped to cut through a line of concertina wire. When he turned back around and took his first step, his life changed forever. "I couldn't feel the ground underneath my feet," said Smith. "It happened so fast; it felt like 20 linebackers tackling me all at the same time."

After flying through the air, Smith's next memory was hitting the ground hard on his side and swallowing what seemed to him to be a half-gallon of sewage water. "I just thought that was disgusting, I had just swallowed all that water," Smith said. "At this point the pain hadn't set in, then reality came back and I started screaming."

The blast from the Improvised Explosive Device severed his Achilles tendon, shattered the bones in his lower leg, and broke his femur, nearly severing his femoral artery.

The two corpsmen in his platoon, one of whom narrowly avoided stepping on the IED himself, rushed to his side, strapped a tourniquet to his leg, and put him on a stretcher bound for the nearest vehicle to take him to the

Battalion Aid Station.

"The last conscious memory I have was when I got to the BAS," said Smith. "I grabbed the nearest Marine and told him to go get my brother; tell him what happened to me."

Smith's brother, who enlisted in 1999 and was a big influence on Smith enlisting in 2004, had recently transferred to Weapons Company, 1/6, so he could deploy to Iraq with his brother.

Smith was then flown to Balad Air Base in Iraq en route to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

"From there I was in a twilight zone," said Smith. "I was unconscious, but I could feel and hear everything around me. They were resetting my bone, which stuck

out of my leg, and I remember feeling all that pain, but I was like a vegetable — I couldn't scream, I couldn't move, I couldn't do anything."

Smith remained in Germany for 35 days before transferring to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where he was forced to make the biggest decision of his life.

"I didn't originally lose my leg in the IED blast," Smith said. "I originally thought I could keep my leg. The doctors would touch my toes and ask me if I could feel my feet and I could, just barely. I thought that was a good sign."

After one of many surgeries to clean the wound, Smith awoke and the doctor gave him an option: he could allow doctors to amputate the leg or they could try and save the limb using cadaver tissues, but the longer he waited the more likely they would have to amputate.

Smith knew the answer he had to give the doctor, and his family and girlfriend, now wife, were there to support him.

"As soon as they gave me the choices, I knew what I had to do," Smith said. "A few days later I had my amputation. I came back from my surgery and my mom, dad, sister and girlfriend were there; they were a tremendous support during that time."

After Smith's initial surgery he began running a temperature of 105 degrees regularly. The sutures on his leg wouldn't heal, and doctors were puzzled by his worsening condition. Eventually, he mentioned that the waist-deep sewage water during the blast. Immediately, the doctors knew he had contracted an E. coli infection, a bacterial illness that can be deadly in some cases.

His original amputation was right above the top of his boot, but because of the E. coli infection,



CPL. JEFF DREW

CAMP HANSON, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Sgt. Stephen M. Smith, the armory maintenance chief for 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, survived an Improvised Explosive Device blast in Ramadi, Iraq, while deployed with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, in 2006. Despite the loss of his left leg below the knee, Smith deployed to Afghanistan in February.

his suture lines wouldn't heal properly and doctors had to remove three more inches of his leg.

Smith transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center after the surgery in November 2006, but had to wait for his femur to properly heal before he could start his rehabilitation. The femur is the largest bone in the body; it also takes the longest to heal. Smith watched as injured service members who arrived after him received their prosthetic limbs before he did, and his frustration grew.

"I was in a wheelchair for two and a half months," Smith said. "Going to places that were crowded was difficult. Fighting infections, not getting my prosthetic as soon as I wanted to, and then there was the phantom pain."

Phantom pain is a pain that feels like it's coming from a body part that is no longer there, and it haunts Smith to this day.

"Sometimes I feel like I have an itch on the bottom of my foot and I can't do anything about it," said Smith. "Other times it feels like I'm stepping on a nail. I laugh at it now though — it's usually really quick and then it goes away."

During the recovery process Smith decided staying in the Marine Corps would be best for his family. He finished his first enlistment working at The Basic School in Quantico, Va., as a machine gun instructor. Smith, unable to stay in the infantry because of his injury, yet still wanting to rejoin his brothers, chose to become an armorer in order to re-enlist. He received orders to work in the armory at the School of Infantry East at Camp Geiger, N.C.

A permanent duty station wasn't enough for him, though. He wanted to get back to a deployable unit. Smith was shaken by his original injury, but his desire to

be back in the fight overcame any concerns of another injury. He talked with his chain of command and requested orders to 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, shortly before they deployed to Afghanistan.

"Once I decided to stay in, I just wanted to do my job," said Smith. "It's all about what you make out of it. Some people accept the fact they are crippled for life, but I'm back in a combat zone."

Smith has been with 2/8 for a year now and is nearing the end of his seven-month deployment. Lance Cpl. Christian D. Matte, an armorer with 2/8, describes Smith best.

"I didn't know how to react to this man who had the guts to stay in the Marine Corps and do his job," said the 21-year-old Matte. "He had questions before he came out here wondering if he could do it, now he has those questions answered. It takes a lot of heart to go through what he went through and come back to a deployable unit. He wanted to be as close to his fellow infantrymen as possible; he wanted to be close as he can to the fight."

Editor's note: Second Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment is currently assigned to Regimental Combat Team 1, 2nd Marine Division (Forward), which heads Task Force Leatherneck. The task force serves as the ground combat element of Regional Command (Southwest) and works in partnership with the Afghan National Security Force and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to conduct counter-insurgency operations. The unit is dedicated to securing the Afghan people, defeating insurgent forces, and enabling ANSF assumption of security responsibilities within its area of operations in order to support the expansion of stability, development and legitimate governance.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Teen Bowling & Pizza Party

There is a free bowling & pizza party at the Strike Zone for all Iwakuni teens Aug. 18 from 6 - 8 p.m. For more information, call 080-4177-2060 or 253-3371.

Childcare

If you have an unborn baby and will need childcare, put your name on the waiting list as soon as possible. If you do not sign up for the waiting list, you are at potential risk of not having childcare. For more information, call Melissa Valdez at 253-4141.

Central Texas College

Register for term 1 Tuesday- Aug. 19, class dates are Aug. 22- Oct. 16. Distance learning and traditional classes are available. For more information call 253-5288 or e-mail iwakuni.jpnpfec@ctcd.edu.

Summer Bible School Classes

Summer vacation bible school classes are scheduled to be held at the Marine Memorial Chapel Aug. 15 - 19, 5 - 7:30 p.m. Register at the chaplain's office during normal working hours. For more information,

contact Aileen Flores or the chapel staff at 253-3371.

Crime Stoppers

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

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.

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.

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.

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, 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

Administrative Associate NA022

Part time position. Must be capable of performing on-site contract administration and secretarial duties under the supervision of the lead mechanic. Perform administrative and clerical duties involving data collection. Establish and maintain files, shipping and receiving, aircraft logs and records updating aircraft and maintenance data, training records, inventory control and tool control. Shall be conversant with maintenance and utilization aircraft logbooks and records and have knowledge of OPNAVINST 4790.2 Series, Volume II. A secret U.S. security clearance is required. For more information visit the L-3 Communications site at l-3com.com/careers or contact Albert Ivanoff at 253-3061.

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 4-year degree, 5-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 an advance resume to lbginokinawa@gmail.com. For more information visit www.louisberger.com and look for the jobs indicated for Okinawa.

Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, phone number and the information you would like to be published. You may submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or call 253-5551 to submit over the phone. 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.

Sea Wall closure

The seawall fitness path from the school and housing area to the IronWorks Gym B1010 will be closed to the public Aug. 1, 2011- May 2012 due to a major repair project by the resident officer in charge of construction Iwakuni. The repair will be conducted in two phases. The IronWorks Gym to the Port Area Security Gate is scheduled to be closed from June 2012 to April 2013 as well. The repairs are necessary to maintain the safety and serviceability of the fitness path. Community safety and security is paramount throughout the project duration.

Got News? Got News? Got News?

Do you have an idea for a story or need coverage for an event? We are here for you. Contact the Public Affairs Office two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, calling 253-5551 or stopping by Building 1, Room 216.

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.

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

Protestant
 Saturday 10 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)

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

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



Master Sgt. John B. Bass III, with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, renders a salute as the national anthem plays during his retirement ceremony at MCAS Iwakuni, here July 27. Bass retired after serving 22 years in the United States Marine Corps. If you would like to submit your own photo, you can submit 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.

SGT. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, August 5, 2011
 7 p.m. Captain America: The First
 Avenger (PG-13)
 Premiere

Saturday, August 6, 2011
 1 p.m. Judy Moody and the Not
 Bummer Summer (PG)
 Premiere
 4 p.m. Captain America: The First
 Avenger (PG-13)

Sunday, August 7, 2011
 1 p.m. Judy Moody and the Not
 Bummer Summer (PG)
 4 p.m. Conspirator (PG-13)
 7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly
 Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13)

*The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura
 often for updates or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.*

**General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$3 / Ages 6-11 are \$1.50 / Children ages 5 and
 under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call
 253-5291.**

Monday, August 8, 2011
 To be announced

Tuesday, August 9, 2011
 Theater Closed

Wednesday, August 10, 2011
 Theater Closed

Thursday, August 11, 2011
 To be announced

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, macadamia
 cookie, chocolate pudding
 parfait, Jell-O 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, Jell-O 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
 with chocolate frosting,
 sugar cookies, chocolate
 pudding parfait, Jell-O
 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,
 Jell-O 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, standard
 salad bar, potato salad,
 coleslaw, macaroni salad,
 kolaches, quick French
 coffee cake, Boston
 cream pie, double layer
 carrot cake with lemon
 buttercream frosting,
 oatmeal raisin cookies,
 vanilla pudding parfait,
 Jell-O parfait.



Roy L. Clayton Jr., Torii catcher, attempts to tag Peter A. Lawson, Iwakuni extra hitter, as he slides home during the semi finals of the 2011 One-Pitch Softball Tournament here July 29. Iwakuni beat Torii during the championship game 10-9.

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Base teams battle during 2011 One-Pitch Softball Tournament

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Iwakuni beat Torii 10-9 during the One Pitch Softball Tournament championship round here Saturday.

Iwakuni, Torii and MALS-12 Marauders played a round-robin game before a double-elimination to determine the winner.

All of the games played used the one pitch method, which starts the batter with two strikes and three runs.

This style of game is meant to keep the players moving and always on their toes, said Matthew W. Barker, intramural sports coordinator.

A round-robin game is played with each team facing against each other team one time.

The round-robin game was meant to get the teams warmed up and ready for the double-elimination tournament, said Barker.

During the round-robin game, Iwakuni came out on top and went into the tournament as the favorite.

"We come out here as the base team, as goliaths," said Anthony Baker, Iwakuni shortstop. "Today, the goliaths still stand."

The Marauders' and Torii players stepped out of their dugouts for the first game.

Torii pulled ahead in the second inning when Wade J. Armstrong, Torii third baseman, and Roy L. Clayton Jr., Torii center fielder, stomped across home plate after a few base runs, which brought the score to 2-0.

By the end of the fourth inning, Brian J. Ruppel, Marauders first baseman and Joseph Whitfield, Marauders right center fielder, scored one run each to tie the game.

Paul A. Torres, Torii left fielder, won the game for his team after he smashed the ball for a home run.

The Torii players only had a few minutes rest before they faced Iwakuni.

By the bottom of the second inning, Torii was ahead with a 6-0 lead.

Peter A. Lawson, Iwakuni extra hitter, put three points on the board after a home run with two bases loaded.

Iwakuni scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth, but Torii squeezed ahead for the victory when Torres again ran across home plate at



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Travis J. Eno, Iwakuni right fielder, attempts to hit the ball during the 2011 One-Pitch Softball Tournament here July 29. Eno ran to second base, which set up Iwakuni to score with the following batter.

the start of the fifth inning, which gave Torii the 9-8 win.

"Torii came out and beat us at first, which provided great experience for us," Baker said. "We have a great foundation. All we need to work on is minor tweaks with each player. This tournament helped show us what we will be working on during upcoming practices."

Iwakuni and the Marauders were both against the ropes when they battled it out during the third game.

The Marauders' players exploded into the lead right off the bat when they put eight runs on the board during the first inning.

The Marauders made 15 runs during the game but the Iwakuni players pulled together and scored 19 points, which eliminated the Marauders.

With the Marauders out of the picture, the semi-finals had Iwakuni facing Torii again.

Armstrong scored the first run for Torii during the second inning. He scored another point during the fourth inning after Torres and Joseph P. Beall, Torii extra hitter, which gave Torii a 4-0 lead.

Bryn M. Forstner, Iwakuni short stop, and Keith A. Applegate, Iwakuni backup pitcher, closed the gap when they scored two points in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Forstner and Jamie L. Mohn, Iwakuni pitcher, tied the game at 4-4 in the sixth inning when Mohn smashed a home run with Forstner on second base. Baker and Dylan J.

Swetlic, Iwakuni first baseman, gained the lead for Iwakuni 6-4 in the seventh inning with two runs.

Iwakuni's outfielders kept Torii's batters from scoring any runs for the rest of the game.

Both teams entered the championship game on equal ground.

Avanti Anderson, Iwakuni right center fielder, and Applegate scored one run each when their team was up to bat, which gave Iwakuni the lead.

Wylie L. Rakestraw, Torii second baseman, put the first point on the board for his team at the bottom of the first inning.

By the bottom of the fourth inning, Iwakuni maintained its lead 6-5.

Iwakuni was able to run home four more points during the fifth inning furthering its lead 10-5.

Torii scored four points, which closed the gap 10-9, by the time Clayton stepped up to bat. Armstrong and Beall were on first and second base respectively when Clayton hammered the ball.

Armstrong and Beall took off running as Clayton neared first base.

The ball soared over the pitcher, but Baker leaped up with his open glove and snatched the ball out the air, which ensured the win for Iwakuni.

"You hear the sound of the ball come off the bat and you only have time to react," said Baker of his catch. "All the practice and previous experiences put you in a position where you either make the play or you don't."

The Torii players enjoyed the competitiveness of the other teams throughout the entire tournament.

"We played excellent today," said Rakestraw. "We did the best we could against the other two teams and came close to winning. Today was a good day for us."

Although the tournament was small, bigger events for the softball teams are on the horizon.

"The next tournament we have here will be huge," Barker said. "This was pretty much practice for the base teams."

Ten Japanese teams are slated to compete during the next scheduled softball tournament here August 28.

MCCS & MCAS Iwakuni bring you the 2011

OPEN

Summer Music Festival

HOUSE

サマーミュージック
フェスティバル

FOOD

Your favorite
American food and drinks

アメリカンフード!

ハンバーガー
ピザ
ナチョスなど

MUSIC

Headline act AIRIEL DOWN
Plus local bands & entertainment

ライブミュージック!

アメリカ本土から
「エアリアル・ダウン」
地元バンドほか

FUN

Fun for all ages!

Kids Land
Static Display
Vendor Row

催し物!

キッズランド・航空機展示・売店

TORII PINES GOLF COURSE
08.27.2011 FROM 2:00-8:00 p.m.

Enjoy live music and good food in a fun environment while building a stronger Japanese and American relationship.

for more information visit:
www.mccsiwakuni.com/smf
find us on facebook at:
MCCS Summer Music Festival



Torii Pines Golf Course will be closed from August 23-28.
Driving Range will be open 24 hours a day during this period.

All non-Japanese citizens/over-CCPA status persons must bring a valid passport or Alien Registration Card (AR-15) and complete a short questionnaire prior to being granted access to MCCS Iwakuni for Summer Music Festival. Failure to bring proper identification to complete this questionnaire will result in denial of access to the base. Upon arrival at MCAS Iwakuni, signs at each entrance will direct you where to go for screening. Event will be cancelled if inclement weather occurs.