

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 34 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 walk away from the aircraft after arriving at the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Air Terminal here Sept. 1 as part of the Unit Deployment Program. The UDP is a six-month deployment which sends various squadrons throughout the region to bolster their combat readiness through combat exercises and simulations. VMFA-115, also known as the Silver Eagles, is based out of MCAS Beaufort, S.C. VMFA-115 replaced VMFA-314, which has ended its deployment and returned to MCAS Miramar, Calif.

## Silver Eagles land in Iwakuni

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

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 arrived here to begin a six month deployment as part of the Unit Deployment Program Sept. 1.

The Unit Deployment Program is designed to deploy units to various areas of the Western Pacific region for six months at a time to reduce the number of unaccompanied tours and train in various forward-deployed environments, standing ready to carry out the mission of the Corps.

VMFA-115, also known as the Silver Eagles, replaced VMFA-314, who returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. after completing its own UDP deployment.

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## MWSS-171 bids farewell to outgoing sergeant major

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

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 said farewell to one of its own as the former MWSS-171 sergeant major handed over his duties to the oncoming sergeant major during a relief-and-appointment ceremony at the Building 1 parade deck here Sept. 1.

Sgt. Maj. Blake L. Smith was replaced as the new squadron sergeant major by Sgt. Maj. Albert Diaz. Smith started his tour of duty as MWSS-171's sergeant major in September 2009.

"I couldn't have asked for a better sergeant major," said Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor, MWSS-171 commanding officer. "Sergeant Major Smith was a true leader, mentor, teacher and he made the squadron better."

Smith left here to serve as the new commanding sergeant major for Headquarters Command at the School of Infantry-West, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Smith completed his last tour of duty as the School of

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## VFA-94 pilots display capacity to defend

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan** — Pilots of Strike Fighter Squadron 94, Mighty Shrikes, executed and completed an aerial generator plant scenario during exercise Habu Fire II here Aug. 30.

Habu Fire II is a joint-training exercise where VFA-94, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 214 and 18th Fighter Wing work together performing and improving efficiency in air-to-air operations.

VFA-94 Pilots perform different scenarios based on training and qualifications they need to acquire.

"Some of our pilots are working toward their division lead

qualification," said Navy Lt. Thomas J. Young, VFA-94 officer in charge of the Kadena detachment. "In order to do that, there are several flights they have to complete."

Once pilots complete those flights and obtain their division lead qualification, they will be able to lead up to three other aircraft.


"We were doing a day self-escort strike," said Young. "What that means is, you fight your way in to a target, you drop your bomb, and you fight your way out."

This flight is just one of the several needed to complete the qualifications.

Whether it is for qualification or sustainment, you learn something on every flight you go on. Each flight has

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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## ‘Finding faith through hardship’

LT. CMDR. L. LEE  
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

For many, the memory of the terrible event on September 11, 2001, is still fresh in our minds. I remember the following weeks after the tragic event, we were holding prayer meeting after prayer meeting in my church.

When bad things happen to good people, we start asking, “Where is God?” It’s a question that’s not so easy to answer. Sometimes, the questions we ask may already be answered but it might be that we cannot accept the answer. Let me try to answer this question with this real story.

A long time ago, on a remote island in Southeast Asia, there was an island inhabited by lepers. If someone contracted leprosy, they were sent to that island and that was the end of it. Leprosy is a terrible disease. Often body parts would become deformed and the skin infection would cause constant torment. Once someone went into that small island, he could not come out. A supply ship would drop necessary food and materials every now and then, but no one would dare go into or come out of that island.

One day, a young missionary from England came to a nearby area. He would often pass by that

island and often he would go just close enough so the lepers on the island could hear, and he would shout, “God loves you and Jesus died for you.”

Every week he would go and shout God’s love. But no matter how loud he shouted, it didn’t seem to do much good.

One day as this young missionary was praying for the several hundred lepers on that island, it occurred to him to that the only way they will accept the gospel message was if someone with Gospel went to the island.

The more he prayed, he felt God was leading him to go and not just preach the good news but to show— to live out the good news — so that they could come to Christ.

He knew what that meant. It meant once he went into the Lepers’ Island, he was never to come out of it. It meant leaving everything behind and living all of his life on that small island.

Not only that, but it meant that he would eventually contract leprosy and suffer until his death.

The story goes that in spite of many people who advised him not to go, the young missionary went onto that island.

Yes, eventually he became a leper and greatly suffered due to infection and mutilation. He was tormented and lived with a great

deal of pain.

But, he was able to share the gospel message in person, in the flesh. The lepers on that island saw how much that young missionary cared for them to the point of forsaking everything and coming to them, knowing that he would catch leprosy. Almost every leper on the island came to believe in God and trust Christ as his or her personal Savior.

John 12:24 tells us, “... unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

God demonstrated this to us by sending us his own son to be a sacrifice for our sins. We might ask, “Where is God?” The Scripture responds through many stories and verses, but the best one that I know is mentioned in John 1:14, “the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” God is already with us.

The overwhelming presence of evil in this world is not a proof of the absence of God’s presence.

Rather, it is his grace that sustains us even through the difficult times. This is God’s heart, to come down to this earth, experience pain and death, and take our burdens upon himself. So that through our faith in our God, we might overcome evil with good.

# Marines visit local youth, make new connections



Cpl. Matthew Doyle (center-right), Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 community relations coordinator, and station service members lead the children of Marifu Hoikuen, a Kindergarden School in downtown Iwakuni, in the “head, shoulders knees and toes” dance during a community relations visit to the school Aug. 31. During the trip, the Marines helped the students practice counting and identifying colors and animals in English. The Marines danced and played several learning games with the children.

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Infantry-West Advanced Infantry Training Battalion’s sergeant major. He also has previous tours with the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., the University of San Diego Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program and 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

Taylor also said Smith identified with Marines under his charge and had a mutual understanding of respect and trust with his staff noncommissioned officers. Through that, Smith was able to make the squadron more close-knit, he added.

Smith humbly shared the acceptance of praise saying without the aid of SNCOs and officers, he would not have been as successful as the squadron sergeant major in forging their close-knit bonds.

“They’ve made the biggest difference, not me,” said Smith. “And I really appreciate that.”

Taylor said he felt reassured, knowing Smith would be able to influence a new generation of Marines at SOI-West.

“I’m happy he’s not retiring,” said Taylor. “This is the guy we need as a role model for our young Marines coming into the Corps.”



Sgt. Maj. Blake L. Smith, outgoing Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 sergeant major, renders a salute to Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor, MWSS-171 commanding officer, as Sgt. Maj. Albert Diaz, oncoming MWSS-171 sergeant, looks on during a relief-and-appointment ceremony held the Building 1 parade deck here Sept. 1. Smith’s next duty station will be at Camp Pendleton, Calif. at School of Infantry-West.

The level of respect, dedication and enthusiasm Smith showed in his two years as the squadron sergeant major is something the new squadron sergeant major

wishes to emulate in his time here. “I’m going to give 110 percent to the Marines here,” said Diaz. “This isn’t just another duty station to me. I think it will be a

good challenge for me.” Diaz completed his most recent tour of duty as the 1st Radio Battalion sergeant major at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

FROM **EAGLES** ON PAGE 1

VMFA-115 is based out of MCAS Beaufort, S.C. The squadron’s commanding officer is Lt. Col. Matthew H. Phares.

The squadron arrived with the intent of conducting training exercises in the Pacific Theater to bolster its mission of combat readiness and efficiency.

The opportunity to deploy to this region affords the squadron a chance to expand upon the diversity of training it conducts by working with different units in the region.

“We’re afforded more opportunities to deploy in the region, whether it is Okinawa, Guam or Thailand,” said Master Sgt. William E. Hetrick Jr., VMFA-115 aircraft maintenance chief. “We not only get to work hand-in-hand with our allies in Japan, but also our allies in Southeast Asia.”

Training and practicing more with ordnance and strike capabilities is an added benefit of coming to the region.

“From an ordnance point-of-view, this is a little bit of a better place to train because there’s more opportunity to drop (ordnance),” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joy Craig, VMFA-115 ordnance officer. “Out in Beaufort, we’re really restricted on ranges. We have the opportunity to practice more in (the Pacific).”

The squadron spent a year training in preparation for this deployment.

“We went and preformed at Twentynine Palms in the Mojave Viper exercise and prepared for any type of contingencies,” said Craig.

The squadron will use the F-18/A aircraft to train. This particular designation of aircraft varies from the standard F-18 in that it has increased air-to-ground and air-to-air capabilities, allowing pilots greater range and abilities.

“It goes into touchy territory but our pilots can see more when it comes to seeking out, engaging, and neutralizing the enemy,” said Craig. “Those two little pluses mean a lot as far as their capabilities.”

The Silver Eagles will be testing those capabilities alongside several other squadrons stationed in the region.

“We’ll be performing (large force exercises) with (Strike Fighter Squadron 94) as well as with some Air Force B-52s and B-2s, which operate out of Guam,” said Cosgrove.

The Silver Eagles are slated to begin their first training exercises in October in Guam.

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new things to learn and different pilots to learn from, said Young.

The exercises performed while on deployment allows the pilots the opportunity to used live ordnance.

“During exercises like these, we go up and we fight ourselves,” said Chief Robert M. Montez, VFA-94 maintenance chief. “It enhances the training of the aircrew and also pushes the limits of the aircraft a little.”

These flight operations prepare pilots for situations they may not be used to.

The ranges that are here give the pilots more flexibility with the training they are able to perform, said Montes.

Deployments like these help the Mighty Shrikes enhance their skills and keep the unit mission ready.

“Being deployed helps things run smoother,” said Montes. “There are fewer distractions while deployed than back home. It helps us to come closer and use each other as support.”

The Mighty Shrikes have had to make many adaptations while on deployment compared to being home.

“Our junior troops have stepped up,” said Montes. “They have stepped out of their comfort zone and have been broadening their skills, learning



KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan — Navy airman Anthony R. Moreno, Strike Fighter Squadron 94 electrician mate, brings down the ladder in order for the pilot to exit the aircraft on the flightline during exercise Habu Fire II here Aug. 31.

other jobs besides their own.”

Being deployed and in a new location has had an impact on the unit.

“We work faster out here than we do back home,” said Airman Sara C. Walden, VFA-94 aviation ordnance technician. “We upload, download,

arm and disarm bombs.”

The workload the squadron is faced with here has the personnel working long hours.

Without the explosives the ordnance technicians maintain, load and inspect, aircraft would not be able to help troops on the ground, said Walden.





LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

**KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan** — Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert Lanane, Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 94 maintenance officer, taxis to the take off point during exercise Habu Fire II. Lanane performed a flight operation where simulated ordnance was dropped. Habu Fire II is a joint-training exercise where Marines, sailors and airmen work together to learn and teach new techniques.

## Mighty Shrikes shake Kadena

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

**KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan** — Pilots of Strike Fighter Squadron 94 Mighty Shrikes sent off practice ordnance for training here Aug. 24 as part of Habu Fire II.

Habu Fire II is a joint-training exercise where VFA-94, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 214 and 18th Fighter Wing work together performing and improving efficiency in close-air support, air-to-air and ground-to-air operations.

Training with practice ordnance allows pilots to become more proficient at close-air-support missions, said Lt. Cmdr. Robert Lanane, VFA-94 maintenance officer.

During training exercises, pilots train with both live and practice ordnance.

"The practice bombs or laser-guided training rounds are a much more cost-effective way of getting adequate training for both pilots and ordnance," said Lanane.

The flights scheduled for ordnance training are not only good for the pilots who fire off the bombs, but they also benefit the ordnance personnel by providing more training



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

**KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA, Japan** — Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert Lanane, Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 94 maintenance officer, suits up as he prepares to fly a F-18 during exercise Habu Fire II here Aug. 24. Lanane flew to practice releasing ordnance by dropping practice bombs which release smoke upon detonation.

loading them.

"These flights are good for practicing efficiency in loading, arming and delivery," said Master Chief John R. Dunlap, VFA-94 maintenance master chief.

Throughout the deployment, the Mighty Shrikes have increased the number of flight hours, number of aircraft launched and the number of working hours for all

personnel.

"I have been extremely impressed with the ability of the crew to brief, debrief and employ the systems," said Dunlap.

Both the air crew and ground crew have been working from early mornings to late evenings to ensure the mission is an overall success.

"We ensure all gear is ready when needed,

we prep the aircraft for loading, load the aircraft, put power to the aircraft to ensure the ordnance works correctly," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Mendoza, VFA-94 aviation ordnance.

Without the ordnance personnel the pilots would be unable to execute their missions for this deployment.

The training is much

more challenging here, said Mendoza. The distance between shops and the pads, the area where the aircraft are launched from, make the planning a little more complicated, Mendoza added.

With more training going on every day, ground personnel and pilots are able to improve or add more information to their day-to-day abilities.

## Seabees build wall to help noise reduction

PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Navy Seabees and Marines worked together to build a concrete wall around an air conditioning unit at the Hornet's Nest, the Single Marine Program building, here Sep. 4.

The wall is being built to help reduce noise from the air conditioning unit for neighboring homes off base.

The project is not only fixing the noise problem but has also helped create a training environment for the Seabees.

"This project provides hands on training with concrete, rebar, and framing, while allowing this base to become a better neighbor," said Zeda.

The SMP was recently renovated and a new, larger air conditioner was installed, said Cmdr. Jason D. Zeda, the station facilities officer.

The old wall was a small temporary arrangement built to help with the noise until a more permanent structure could be provided.

"The old temporary wall didn't have any rigidity; it was just tied up between a small tree and a wall," said Zeda.

The wall now is a permanent eight by thirteen-foot concrete wall able to withstand typhoon-speed winds.

Having a good solid wall will not only help reduce the noise but also will help reduce any

risks, said Petty Officer 3rd Class William M. Svoboda, project supervisor.

The project allows sailors to get out and work with concrete and increase their range of occupational abilities.

"We have an electrician mate out here to help us build a concrete wall, now if there is ever a need for a wall in the future, he has this training and can help out his fellow Seabees," said Svoboda.

It provides cross training to every sailor in case they are thrown into a situation where they need to build a wall, said Zeda.

Seabees often are put into positions to help out each other even if they have little to no training in that particular field.

"While on deployment we are often asked to help out on projects that we don't always have the proper training for," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark R. Lahey, project advisor. This is good training for the younger Marines and sailors so they have experience with all types of projects, not just in their specific field, he continued.

The plan was to have the project done within approximately four weeks; however, with the recent winds and weather conditions the deadline was forced back.

The project is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Lance Cpl. Adam Bailey (Left), Lance Cpl. David Waldbillig, both combat engineers, and Petty Officer 3rd Class William M. Svoboda, project manager, dig excess concrete and dirt away from the foundation of the new concrete wall at the Hornet's Nest here Sept. 4. Excess dirt that makes its way into the concrete slab will create weak points because as the dirt slowly deteriorates, holes are left where the concrete needs to be making the whole wall weaker.



PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Petty Officer 3rd Class William M. Svoboda measures the distance between the air conditioning unit and the wooden framing that holds the newly-poured concrete which creates the main foundation at the Hornet's Nest here Sept. 4. The foundation will remain unseen and underground, but this very important portion provides necessary support for the rest of the wall to withstand weather and time.



# I survived: One survivor recounts the tragedy that rocked a nation

CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Throughout time there have been moments that have redefined nations and changed the course of history. There have been life-altering moments that speak volumes of the horror in the hearts of some and resilience in the souls of others. Those moments have become so intertwined with our existence that their dates have been seared into our hearts. Just mentioning those dates can bring a flood of images to mind that drown the heart with emotions and make breathing a laboring task. For past generations December 7, 1941 was such date. For today's generation September 11, 2001 is another.

September 11th now stands as a phrase that summarizes the separate stories of everyone affected on that day. It summarizes the actions of men and women aboard a hijacked plane, who are now known as the Heroes of United Flight 93. It summarizes the story of almost 3,000 people who lost their lives to acts of terror as people all over the world looked on in disbelief. For the individuals who survived the attacks, the date now stands as a reminder of events that changed the course of their lives.

For Staff Sgt. Jay M. Santiago, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron staff-noncommissioned officer in charge, and his family, the date is a personal one they remember with solemn reverence, thankful that they are still together.

"To tell the truth, it's been hard these past 10 years," said Santiago. "I've been to the therapy they recommended... and it helps ... but I own every single documentary that was created of it, and I haven't been able to watch them yet. It was something I will never forget and something I am reminded of every year with a post card from the World Financial Center Health Registry."

Ten years ago in their New Jersey home, Santiago and his family opened their eyes to a new autumn day unaware that at the same time 19 al-Qaeda operatives were beginning to put a horrific plan in motion that would change their lives forever.

After dropping their 3-year-old son Joshten at daycare and seeing their 5-year-old daughter Destyne to school, Santiago and his wife Madelyn Santiago made their way to Grand Central station to go to work. Santiago worked in the North Tower for Merrill Lynch. At the time, Madelyn Santiago was attending school at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

"We went to the train," said Madelyn Santiago. "He would always go south, and I would go north. We were on opposite platforms, so we could see each other. Usually my train would leave first, and he would always see me off. But that morning, I was looking at him and all of a



(From right) Staff Sgt. Jay M. Santiago, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron staff-noncommissioned officer in charge, poses with his family, Madelyn Santiago, Joshten Santiago and Destyne Santiago in front of the Miyajima Torii, the floating gate Itsukushima shrine in Miyajima, Japan, last year. Santiago survived the terrorist attacks September 11, 2011. When the South tower collapsed Santiago was trapped under a trailer with five other people for hours before being rescued by firemen.

sudden his train came and he was off."

That moment became rooted in both their minds.

As Santiago began his day at the office, fire alarms started to go off. Thinking it was a routine fire alarm, he and his co-workers filed out of the office into the streets.

"When we went outside it was all a commotion," said Santiago. "No one knew what was going on."

Santiago made his way across the street to the post office, on Church Street, when he stopped and looked up. At the time of the attacks, there was a movie being filmed in the area. Santiago thought what he saw might have been part of the movie until he saw something else.

"I stood there, and I saw the actual hole in the building and just didn't know what was going on until I saw this lady standing by the hole... and she jumped," said Santiago. "I thought, 'why was she jumping? There's no netting on the ground.' Until she actually hit the ground... That's when I realized there was something going on."

Everyone wanted to help somehow but no one knew how. They just looked on in disbelief as people kept jumping out of the building when something else came into view.

"We then saw the second plane coming in," said Santiago. "The plane went around the buildings, went over to Staten Island, and you could see it go by the Statue of Liberty and then it came back to the South Tower. That's when we realized it was an attack. I recall seeing how the plane came into the building window by window, the exploding debris."

Further commotion seized the crowded streets. No one knew what to do as they looked at the smoking towers. "We just stood there," said Santiago. "Time passed and then the building collapsed... the South Tower first. When it collapsed, we were trapped. When it collapsed, there were five of us under a trailer. We stayed there and all you could hear was just sirens, screaming and crying. Nobody knew what to do."

Across the city, 50 blocks away, Madelyn Santiago was directed from her classroom into the auditorium. On her way she glanced at a TV and saw an image of New York City. Her chest caved into her heart as she looked at the screen.

"The Towers were gone," said Madelyn Santiago. "There was nothing left. At that moment I was looking at the TV and I was in shock. I kept thinking, 'he's dead, he's dead.'"

Madelyn Santiago walked into the streets toward her mother's house 20 blocks away. A toxic burnt smell and a cloud of dust had seized the city.

"It was like the end of the world," said Madelyn Santiago. "Everyone was freaking out and crying. It was like a mass exodus. People were just walking and walking, hypnotized."

Madelyn Santiago was overwhelmed with the thought that her husband was dead, thinking about the last time she saw him at the subway.

Back at ground zero, Santiago was still trapped underneath a trailer with five other people. Their cell phones were down and they were unable to communicate with anyone outside.

"We tried screaming for help and nobody came, so we just stayed there," said Santiago.

As the horror of the day wore on, Santiago and the others remained trapped. Hours rolled by and they fell silent. Santiago began to think about the moments of his life.

"I remembered when I got married, I remembered when my kids were born, I remembered when I was in the Marine Corps prior... the places I'd been too," said Santiago. "You actually run through your life. I didn't think I was going to make it out of there."

The heat and burning smell surrounded them. They all thought they were not going to make it out. Hope started to grip their hearts when they heard firemen yelling out "Does anyone need help? Is there anyone alive!" They frantically started to dig from the inside out.

"We started banging making noise and that's how the firemen started digging us out," said Santiago. "It was like being born again. They pulled us out."

After being looked over by emergency medical services, Santiago was released. Wearing a shredded suit covered in debris, reeking of gasoline and the smell that gripped the city, he started his long walk home. He was still unable to contact family. When he finally arrived around midnight, he found them holding a vigil for him; they all thought he was dead.

"I saw him coming down the block," said Madelyn Santiago. "I ran and then he ran, and all we could do was hug and cry. He was saying a lot of things, but I couldn't hear him. All I could think about was him actually being there."

They both started to make their way back to their New Jersey home and their children. The children were in the care of a neighbor.

Destyne was only five-years-old at the time, but she still remembers when she saw her parents. "I was relieved," she said. "I was happy, and it was emotional for me. My mother was hysterical and my dad was covered in glass and stuff."

## Honoring 9/11, Freedom Walk serves as reminder

PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services is scheduled to host a Freedom Walk and a 9/11 memorial service at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Sunday.

"The walk is designed to help bring the community together for a moment of reflection and remembrance," said Thomas F. Durning, athletic director and event coordinator.

The walk and chapel service is to commemorate all the lives which were lost when the World Trade Center twin towers came crumbling down, a plane stuck the Pentagon and the fourth plane United Airline 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa. the tragic day of September 11, 2001.

The ceremony at the chapel will include scripture reading, two songs sung by Ms. Beverly Bryant, guest speaker Lt. Col. Thomas E. Frederick, Marine Aircraft Group 12 Weapons Systems Officer, and a tribute film.

Lt. Cmdr. Louis C. Lee, station command chaplain said, "I think it's easy for us to shake our heads and move on, but a tragedy like what happened really deserves our time to reflect."

The freedom Walk is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. at the Building 1 parade deck. In case of inclement weather, the walk will be cancelled. The memorial service is scheduled to continue as planned at 8:15 a.m.

Parking will be provided at the Crossroads Mall and Building 411.

Some roads will be closed for the walk but drivers should try to avoid areas of 5th street, C avenue, E Circle drive and Brushert street.

Due to the ceremony at the chapel, Catholic Mass is being rescheduled to 9:30 a.m., and the Protestant worship service is being moved to 11 a.m.

The next few months were hard for the whole country. For Santiago and his family, it was especially difficult. "I would come from school and he was in his pajamas sitting there," said Destyne. "I wanted to comfort him, but I knew I couldn't."

Months passed and Santiago finally found a way to move forward. He decided to re-enlist in the Marine Corps and serve his country. "I came back to the Marine Corps because I wanted to do something so it wouldn't happen again," said Santiago.

Ten years have passed since the September 11 attacks. It's been 10 years since Santiago's family was irrevocably changed by the plans laid out by terrorists.

"Everything that we had known up to that time is gone," said Madelyn Santiago. "We were never the same people, the same family, the same husband, the same wife. It was never the same, and it was all in the blink of an eye. It just happened."

After 10 years of hunting for the man who changed the lives of millions, Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the 9/11 plot, was finally brought to justice May 1.

Santiago couldn't believe it when he received the news from his wife.

"I had to ask her over four times, 'are you sure,'" said Santiago.

He was sick at home the day he picked up the phone and received the news from his wife.

"I could finally bring closure to it," said Santiago. "I could finally say it's over. We don't have to drag it out any longer. It's done."

On Sunday, people all over the world will remember what happened 10 years ago. People will remember a different version of the same event. They all have something different to say.

"People have to remember, this happened to everyone at the same time," said Madelyn Santiago. "This is just one account of many. In a minute we witnessed a lifetime of hurt and pain and recovery. It's not something that should ever be forgotten. It was a sad thing. This is what happened to us, our family and our country."



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

# Volunteers build pathway for heroes

CPL. DANIEL WULZ  
REGIONAL COMMAND WEST

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** — Within the military, it is said that service members look out for their own.

In combat, brothers and sisters in arms have given life and limb for one another countless times throughout the history of our nation's military.

On Aug. 20, those service members who gave more than asked got a little in return as volunteers from all branches came together and poured a concrete walkway outside the wounded warrior barracks aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province.

Until now, the wounded warrior living area has had the same temporary walkway surrounding most buildings on base, a plastic, sectioned material with two-inch square holes.

The surface resembles the bottom of a milk crate and provides traction for pedestrians, but isn't nearly as suitable for someone who needs crutches to walk.

"These are the (men and women) who protect my family and ensure the freedom of our country," said Senior Airman Randall Mathis, an equipment operator, with 809th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron. "It breaks my heart to see them trying to walk around on the gravel or eco-matting, wounded or on crutches."

The project itself did not come together on its own.

It required the cooperation of many moving parts, units and volunteers, ultimately organized by Cpl. David Boswell, operations non-commissioned officer with the base's Camp Commandant, and airmen of the 809th Red Horse Squadron.

"It's an honor to work on this project," said Mathis. "Being in the Air Force, I don't really get the chance to go outside of the wire and do great things. It is great to be able to do this for the wounded warriors."

Boswell started the project, Aug. 15, by getting in touch with RED HORSE Squadron and discussing logistics.

The following day, RED HORSE contacted Boswell, agreed to participate in the event, and, by Thursday, they were at the site laying the groundwork for the concrete pouring.

The concrete itself was brought in by Regional Command Southwest's engineer section.

The project would have taken approximately 435 80-pound bags, which had to be hand mixed, to complete, had it not been for the engineers and civilian contractors, according to Boswell.

"It was a collaborative effort through everyone, all of the stars aligned for this project," said Master Sgt. Gregory P. Zenoni, logistics chief, with Medical Support Battalion. "Everybody knew that this had to get done, it was really cool how everyone came together to do it."

"We really do take care of our own across the board," Boswell added.

The concrete was poured and the walkway completely finished only a few hours after the volunteers started working. The pathway built for heroes was dry by the following morning.



CPL. DANIEL WULZ

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** — Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen begin work on a new concrete walkway for the wounded warrior barracks aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Aug. 20. The concrete was poured and the walkway completely finished only a few hours after the volunteers started working. The pathway was dry by the following morning.



CPL. DANIEL WULZ

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** — Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen work on a new concrete walkway for the wounded warrior barracks aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Aug. 20. The concrete was poured and the walkway completely finished only a few hours after the volunteers started working. The pathway was dry by the following morning.



CPL. DANIEL WULZ

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** — Gunnery Sgt. Drew Karpovich, the calibration quality chief with Maintenance Company, Medical Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), helps to lay a new concrete walkway for the wounded warrior barracks aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Aug. 20.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

### Briefs

#### Now on Flickr

MCAS Iwakuni PAO and Combat Camera are now on Flickr! View and download images from air station activities and events at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mcasiwakuni/>.

#### Navy Ball Car Wash

The Navy ball committee is scheduled to host a car wash beside the Commissary Sept. 10, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The fee is donations. Free hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided while the cars are washed.

#### Japanese Language Course

A fall course is scheduled every Tuesday from Sept. 27 – Dec. 27, 7 – 9 p.m. at the Iwakuni Shimin Kaikan civic hall training room. For more information, call 253-5551. Only 40 seats are available on a first come, first served basis.

#### American Red Cross

The ARC is scheduled to host two health and safety courses throughout

the month of September. A baby sitting class is scheduled 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday. An Adult, Infant, Child CPR & First Aid class is scheduled Sept. 24 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The fee for each course is \$40. For more information, call 253-4525.

#### Breast Cancer

MCCS Semper Fit is scheduled to host a walk to promote breast cancer awareness Oct. 15 at 9 a.m. Starting point is at the sea wall behind the Iron Works Gym. Call 253-6359 for more information.

#### Girl Scouts

The Iwakuni Girl Scouts is looking for fun-loving, devoted women and men who want to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls. If you are interested in becoming a leader, co-leader, board member or parent volunteer, e-mail [iwakunigs@gmail.com](mailto:iwakunigs@gmail.com).

#### CHART application system

The Department of the Navy will be replacing

the CHART application system with the USAJOBS online system. After Sept. 30, all DoN job vacancies will be posted on the USAJOBS website and the CHART job search functionality and job vacancies will be removed. For non-Department of Defense employees, CHART will no longer be accessible after Oct 12. If you are a DoD or DoN employee you may access CHART via CAC card until Dec. 30. Only resume and status information will be available for view. DoN will no longer use Open Continuous Announcements to gather applications for upcoming and anticipated vacancies. Resumes received to OCAs will be archived and no longer used.

#### Crime Stoppers

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

#### 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.

#### Childcare

If you have an unborn baby and will need childcare, put your name on the Resources and Referral for Children, Youth and Teens 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.

### Jobs

#### Part-time Dental Assistant Position

The dental clinic is seeking a certified dental assistant. For more information, stop by the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic, Bldg 111 or call 253-5252/3331 to speak with Petty Officer 1st Class Sean

Bohl or Senior Chief Petty Officer Ron Hunter.

#### Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified advertisement send an e-mail to [iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil](mailto:iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil). Include a contact name, a phone number and the information to be published. Alternatively, you may submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please 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.

Officer Professional Military Education

Distance Education Program

Expeditionary Warfare School

&

Command and Staff College

Register for Fall Academic Year 2012 Seminars

Register by September 25

Contact Your Regional Coordinator [www.tecom.usmc.mil/cdet](http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cdet) 1.888.4DL.USMC

James P. Hopkins (Colonel USMC Ret)  
DSN 645-2230/2500 FAX 645-2912

ENROLL TODAY

## CDET helps build the minds of leaders

The College of Distance Education and Training (CDET) will offer Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) Phases I and II and Command and Staff College (CSC) Phase I seminars here this fall.

The seminars will meet one night per week starting the first week of October.

Expeditionary Warfare School

is a professional military education requirement for officers at the captain or chief warrant officer 3 ranks. Officers at the first lieutenant or chief warrant officer 2 ranks are also eligible for EWS, but it is not required.

Command and Staff College is a professional military education requirement for officers at the

The following MCCS facilities will be closed for an employee function on:

Saturday, September 24

CLOSED

**Business**  
Club Iwakuni  
Crossroads Food Court  
Sakura Theater  
Strike Zone Bowling Center  
Tori Pines Golf Course

**Marine & Family Programs**  
Library  
Youth & Teen Center

**Retail**  
Crossroads Book Store  
Marine Corps Exchange  
MCX Furniture Annex  
MCX Warehouse

**Semper Fit**  
Crossfire Paintball Range  
Iron Works Gym (All activities)  
SMP Marine Lounge  
WaterWorks Outdoor Pool

**Services**  
Auto Service Station (Typhoon Motors)  
Auto Skills Center  
Head to Toe Beauty Salon  
Vehicle Rental (Cars can be returned on Sunday with no additional fee.)  
Wood Hobby Shop

These MCCS Facilities will have **MODIFIED** hours or services.

MCCS Gas Booth: Open All Day  
Information, Tours & Travel: Office closed; trips unaffected.  
Marine Marts: Closed Noon - 6 p.m. (re-opens at 6 p.m.)

SMP- Hornet's Nest: Closed 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (re-opens at 6 p.m.)  
TLF Front Desk: (No Housekeeping)

Thank you for your understanding as we celebrate teamwork within our organization.

**MCCS**  
MARINE CORPS

**Not Affected:**  
Academy Travel  
AmeriCable  
Barber Shops

Commissary  
Exchange Now Car Sales  
SportSpa Cellular

Starch & Stripes  
Tori Video

major and chief warrant officer 4 ranks.

Both programs are designed as two-year, blended learning seminars.

To accommodate deployments and temporary assignments, attendees can use online tools or temporarily transfer to the local CDET branch where they are temporarily assigned.

Additionally, any week missed can be made up during the summer.

The inherent flexibility of the CDET's programs make it easier for officers to receive the

education they need, developing leadership, critical thinking and strategic decision-making ability to overcome the 21st Century's security challenges.

Lt.Col. Michael Coletta will be the instructor for EWS Phase I and can be reached at Michael.coletta@usmc.mil.

Lt.Col. Charles Redden will be the instructor for EWS Phase II and can be reached at Charles.redden@usmc.mil.

Dr. Robert Funk will be the instructor for CSC Phase I and can be reached at Robert.funk@pac.dodea.edu.



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



Johnny Vernazza performs during the Summer Music Festival Open House, at the Torii Pines Golf course here Aug. 27. Marine Corps Community Services hosted the annual summer music festival to strengthen the bond with the Japanese and American community by providing several band performances and featuring amusements for children as well as food vendors offering American and local food. 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.

SAKURA THEATER

**Friday, September 9, 2011**  
7 p.m. Friends with Benefits (R)

**Monday, September 12, 2011**  
7 p.m. Horrible Bosses (R)

**Tuesday, September 13, 2011**  
Theater Closed

**Wednesday, September 14, 2011**  
Theater Closed

**Thursday, September 15, 2011**  
7 p.m. Friends with Benefits (R)

**Saturday, September 10, 2011**  
4 p.m. Winnie the Pooh (G)  
7 p.m. Horrible Bosses (R)

**Sunday, September 11, 2011**  
4 p.m. Winnie the Pooh (G)  
7 p.m. Friends with Benefits (R)

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.

Mess Hall Menu

**Monday**  
Corn chowder, sauerbraten, jerked styled chicken, spicy baked fish, lyonnaise rice, baked macaroni and cheese, asparagus, corn, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, blueberry muffins, cherry pie, white cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

**Tuesday**  
Chicken gumbo soup, baked Italian sausage, southern fried chicken, pepper steak, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, brussels sprouts polonaise, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, banana nut muffins, peach crunch, cheese cake, peanut butter cookies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

**Wednesday**  
Cream of chicken soup, baked salmon, roast pork, Yankee pot roast, paprika buttered potatoes, steamed rice, peas and carrots, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, quick cherry coffee cake, pecan pie, marble cake with buttercream frosting, chocolate chip cookie, banana cream pudding, Jell-O parfait.

**Thursday**  
Minestrone soup, barbecue chicken, apple glazed corned beef, Cantonese pork ribs, grilled cheese, potatoes au gratin, tossed green rice, orange carrots amandine, spinach, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bow knots, blueberry muffin, apple pie, devil's food cake with coconut buttercream frosting, shortbread cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

**Friday**  
Chicken rice soup, savory baked chicken, fried catfish, salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, long grain and wild rice, summer squash, asparagus, chicken gravy, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, quick French coffee cake, doughnut, cherry pie, yellow cake with chocolate buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Zumba classes dance their way to physical fitness

PFC. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Zumba dance fitness classes held at the Ironworks Gym here regularly to help everyone get into better shape. Zumba is a dance class that allows for an endurance and stationary cardio workout which uses high energy music to create a fun environment. Classes are held at the Ironworks Gym during the week and on Saturdays. “We hold classes all throughout the week, our schedule is posted everywhere inside the gym, and we even have classes on Saturdays from 3 p.m.-4 p.m., so there is no reason not to Zumba,” said Barbara A. Roman, fitness coordinator. Zumba was originally only done with Latin music, but now Zumba has been growing rapidly and has many different influences. “Latin music is very up tempo and easy to dance to, and with the new hip hop influences it is making it very interesting,” said Milo O. Suttmiller, Zumba dancer. As the music for Zumba changes, so does the dancing. Zumba dances were originally Latin dance steps like the salsa and mambo, but is mixing more with hip-hop steps and other forms of dance, said Roman. “When you’re doing Zumba it doesn’t feel like a workout it just seems like you’re dancing.” The idea of Zumba is to allow individuals to get lost in the music and follow the steps of the instructor so it never appears to be a work out until after. “I love it. With all the dancing and passion, it makes a great exercise,” said Suttmiller. Zumba dance is not about the technique or styles of dance, it is just about the movement. The dance moves don’t need to be taught, you just follow along, and as long as you’re moving, then it doesn’t matter, it will still be a workout, said Sayaka Takabayashi, Zumba instructor. It’s almost like you are at a nightclub and just enjoying yourself and dancing. Zumba classes have been sparking conversations at the gym as people pass by and stop to take a look. “When you look in there, you’re going to see sweat dripping off all of their bodies, but you will always see a large smile across everyone’s face,” said Roman.

Zumba has been at the gym for years. But with the success of the program and the amount of people coming to the classes, it is beginning to spread. There are different types of Zumba for kids, the elderly, with light weights and also while in water, said Roman. However, not only has the Zumba program grown, but it is now spreading over to possibly be unit physical training. “We have been pushing Zumba for unit PT, and we hope to be having a large unit PT for all of Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron coming soon,” said Roman. When asked, several Marines and sailors said they would never try this type of work out by themselves but as a large group it may seem more appealing. “I think it would contribute to unit moral as a PT session,” said Lance Cpl. Manuel D. Cadre, supply administration and operations specialist with Combat Logistics Company 36. During the month of September, Zumba will be held at the Ironworks Gym on Mondays from 11:45 a.m. -12:30 a.m., Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 3 p.m.-4 p.m.



Sayaka Takabayashi, Zumba fitness instructor, demonstrates a dance move during a Zumba class held at the IronWorks Gym here Sept. 2. The class is offered every Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The class is open to all service members, their spouses and SOFA members.



Service members and station residents exercise during a Zumba class held at the IronWorks Gym here Sept. 2. Zumba is a fitness program that incorporates elements of dancing and cardio to help stimulate weight loss. Zumba was founded in the 1990s and has six levels of varying difficulty.



# FREEDOM WALK

★ ★ ★ AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ REMEMBRANCE SERVICE ★



## SEPTEMBER 11

7:30 a.m. - Community gathers at Bldg #1 Parade Deck

7:50 a.m. - Opening remarks (Col Stewart)

8:00 a.m. - Presentation of colors

8:05 a.m. - Freedom Walk to the Chapel

8:25 a.m. - Remembrance Ceremony inside the Chapel

8:46 a.m. - Bell ceremony & Moment of silence

*You are invited to join MCCS & the Station Chapel to reflect on the lives lost on September 11.  
(Rain Plan- In case of severe weather, the Freedom Walk will be cancelled. The community will gather at the chapel at 8:20.  
In the event of a light rain, the Freedom Walk will still occur; please bring an umbrella. Parking will be at Bldg. 411.)*

253-6035/[www.mccsiwakuni.com/athletics](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com/athletics)

