



**IT'S AN HONOR**  
Mama-san in leauge with  
Chuck Norris | P. 5



**WEATHER CHANGES**  
Weather Marines advance technology,  
first to know weather | P. 6 & 7



**COMPETITIVE DRIVE**  
H&HS promotes friendly war between  
departments at field meet | P. 11

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 43 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Squadrons work to improve for next deployment



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

**ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam** — Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian T. Lopez, a Strike Fighter Squadron 94 aviation machinist mate, takes apart straps in preparation for VFA-94, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12's departure from the flightline here Oct. 30. The squadrons spent the month conducting different training ranging from ordnance drops to banner shoots off the coast of Guam.

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

**ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam** — Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 wrapped up training here, Oct. 28, as part of a monthlong training to the region.

The overall focus of the exercise was to promote mission readiness as put forth by Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, 1st Marine Air Wing commanding officer.

This was achieved by improving proficiency and efficiency in aerial combat, and ordnance loading.

"Our mission here is to be ready to execute at a high level and fight and win," said Lt. Col. Matthew H. Phares, VMFA-115 commanding officer. "This has been a great training opportunity for us to be ready to (accomplish) our mission."

While here, VMFA-115 and VFA-94 performed various training exercises, ranging from aerial banner shoot outs, rocket training and live ordnance drops on an uninhabited island off the coast.

Approximately 190,000 pounds of ordnance and 16,000 rounds of ammunition were expended by both squadrons during the course of the exercise.

The experience of working alongside another squadron also allowed for the increased opportunities in training and mission readiness, said Phares.

"It gives us the ability to get more (aircraft) airborne at the same time, which allows us to build large-force exercises and get large-scale training; the type of

missions we would fly in combat. We're replicating as close to real combat here with those exercises," said Phares. "It's very difficult for a single squadron to generate that many sorties. When (we) combine assets, we're able to get a significant number of aircraft to put on those exercises."

The squadrons were able to accomplish this through the support of MALS-12.

MALS-12 played a role in providing logistical support to both squadrons as they went about their training by keeping a steady flow of parts for the squadrons' F/A-18s.

"We're working to ensure they have their (aircraft) parts as soon as possible," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Glenn D. Baker, MALS-12 detachment staff noncommissioned officer in charge. "Our (commanding officer's) intent is to have zero non-mission capable aircraft and by us keeping the aircraft flying we meet his intent."

The concept of one team, one fight resonated throughout the entire month as the squadrons worked with the Air Force, providing the means to conduct their training at a moment's notice, but it went much deeper than that for some.

"We're more than 'one team, one fight'; we're one family," said Master Sgt. William E. Hetrick Jr., VMFA-115 aircraft maintenance chief. "That's the one thing (we) take away from working as close as we do with VFA-94 and MALS-12. It's great to see what others do day-in and day-out."

That ground-level approach to working together allowed the

SEE **INDEX** ON PAGE 3

## Girl Scouts learn history

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Approximately 35 Girl Scouts from six different troops came together to celebrate Juliet G. Low's, Girl Scouts founder, birthday here Oct. 30.

Low founded the Girl Scouts in 1912.

Girl scouts from Brownie troops

14 and 92, Daisy troops 93 and 95, Cadet troop 30 and Juniors troop 94 got together for a craft day to celebrate the Girl Scout program founder's birthday.

"It's fun when all the troops come together," said Codie E. Hernandez, 12-year-old Girl Scout. "All of the troops don't get

SEE **SCOUTS** ON PAGE 3

## Crossfire paintball fires last shots

LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Crossfire paintball, the indoor paintball range here, officially closed its doors Sunday.

The paintball range closed due to construction and the building's pending demolition.

"It's a really old facility and it's


time has come to go," said Tasha Friedell, outdoor recreation manager.

"Unfortunately, paintball is saying goodbye with the building for now."

Paintball has been available on station for Marines to enjoy for many years from physical

SEE **PAINTBALL** ON PAGE 3





**Commanding Officer/Publisher**  
Col. James C. Stewart

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Maj. Neil A. Ruggiero

**Public Affairs Chief**  
Gunnery Sgt. Bryce R. Piper

**Operations & Press Chief**  
Staff Sgt. Jimmy H. Bention Jr.

**Editor**  
Lance Cpl. Cayce Nevers

**Combat Correspondents**  
Cpl. Marcel Brown  
Cpl. Claudio A. Martinez  
Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark  
Lance Cpl. Vanessa Jimenez  
Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades  
Lance Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.  
Pfc. Benjamin Pryer

**Webmaster**  
Yukie Wada

**Community/Media Relations**  
Hiroko Soriki  
Hiroimi M. Kawamoto

**Administration**  
Hiro Sumida

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

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

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

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

# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## ‘Enjoy the journey’

LT.J.G. TAKANA L. SKELTON  
H&HS STATION CHAPLAIN

Have you ever been so busy in your life where you suddenly realize one day 10-and for some even 20-years have passed by so quickly?

You wonder, “My, where has the time gone?”

Working, going to school, raising children, soccer games and all other demands of life has been so consuming as you reflect back, you realize you forgot to enjoy the journey.

Life seems as a quick flashing picture or a photo album of forgotten memories.

It is amazing how important the future seems to us when we haven’t taken the time to enjoy

the here and now. I often hear people say, “I can’t wait to leave Iwakuni!” I ask, “How long have you been here?”

Often times the response is one that makes me smile because it usually hasn’t even been a year.

While I have only been here two months, I can say yes, it is difficult being here, especially if you are alone (like myself).

However, I have learned to slow down and enjoy the journey.

I have started to appreciate the everyday things in life. For example: friends, the splendor of nature and discovering the beauty in others.

It seems as if during these moments of “isolation,” I have been able to draw closer to God and hear his voice more clearly.

I remember when I was stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during my enlisted days.

I developed friendships that still remain 12 years later.

I learned to enjoy the simple things, such as watching the sun set over the ocean, the island’s critters and even the outdated food.

While it is good to keep in mind future goals and plans, it is also wise to appreciate the right now.

Tomorrow is not promised nor the second of our lives.

Each and every moment we are awake is a beautiful gift from God. It is one that shouldn’t be taken for granted.

So, I encourage others as I encourage myself to slow down, embrace those around you and be grateful for a wonderful opportunity.

An opportunitiy to develop lasting and wonderful memories to add to life’s photo album.

We only get one chance to enjoy this journey, why not make the most of it?

## VFA-94 conducts change of command



Navy Capt. Mark A. Hubbard, Strike Fighter Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet Commodore, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on Cmdr. Curtis C. Carroll, outgoing Strike Fighter Squadron 94 commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony at the VFA-94 hangar here Tuesday. Carroll was replaced by Cmdr. David B. Halloran, VFA-94 executive officer. Carroll spoke highly of his time with VFA-94, offering his praise to both his junior officers and enlisted sailors and how they have continued to be mission capable throughout their entire Unit Deployment Program deployment to the Pacific Theater.

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

## Troops celebrate, play for Girl Scout founder’s birthday

FROM **SCOUTS** ON PAGE 1

together often, but when we do, we always have a good time.”

During the event the girls participated in many events.

Some of the events included making hot chocolate or caramel apples, painting pumpkins, decorating autumn leaves, getting their faces painted, creating paper girl scouts or dressing other girl scouts as ‘mummy scouts.’

“My favorite event was the caramel apples because they’re delicious and fun to make,” said Hernandez.

Patti A. Howard, West Pacific Girl Scouts director of membership and marketing, travels around the pacific to help and see how Girl Scouts in different areas are doing.

“I want girls to understand Girl Scouting is bigger than their individual troops,” said Howard.

Girls Scouts are a wide spread organization and can help girls where ever they may be.

“(Girl Scouts) really helps the girls when they get here so they can get involved in a troop and have instant friendship, this way they’re not the new kid in school anymore,” said Howard.

Although the Girl Scouts began in the United States, it has spread

across the world, but there is very little difference between troops which may live on the other side of the world.

“We hope the only difference between Girl Scouts here and in the states is that we don’t go door to door to sell cookies,” said Howard.

The Girl Scout program is best known for its cookies; however, there they do much more.

“When people think of Girl Scouts they usually think of cookies and they have no idea what else we do,” said Tera K. Scott, Girl Scouts of Iwakuni overseas committee cheer.

With the program being so well spread it is important they can help their communities.

“We do field drives, volunteer activities in the Japanese community,” said Scott. “We are trying to build our relationship with Japanese Girl Scouts throughout the year. We will have activities to invite them on base to participate with us. During the tsunami, we participated with the Girl Scouts in Zama during a back pack drive and we collected enough items to have four truckfulls just from the Girl Scouts here in Iwakuni.”

Scouts collected food to help survivors of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami which struck the coasts of Japan March 11.

## Service members say goodbye to paintballs

FROM **PAINTBALL** ON PAGE 1

training unit functions to tournaments between friends.

“I think it’s a great outlet for Marines to go and do something more in their interests,” said Friedell. “With paintball you get to hang out with your friends and do more Marine-like stuff. It passes the time and it’s something different. There aren’t a lot of paintball ranges accessible in the states, but here it was right on base.”

Crossfire Paintball re-opened Dec. 26, 2009 in the old bowling alley facility after transitioning from an outdoor range to indoor.

“We used to have an outdoor paintball center, but because of all the construction going on we lost the field,” said Alma Dickenson, Semper Fit Health Promotions director. “We asked the station for some possible locations and they came up with the old bowling center. It’s an old facility and even when we put paintball in there it was on the demolition list.”

The building is scheduled to be torn down in December.

“I didn’t know that it was closing and I don’t agree,” said Lance Cpl. Manuel A. Valencia, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron packing specialist. “I think it benefits the station. It was cool, fun and a simulation of shooting against each other. There’s not a lot of stuff like that to do on base. It was something interesting and fun to do.”

A new site for paintball has not been announced and there are no current plans in the works.

“Paintball is not going to be aboard station again anytime in the near future,” said Dickenson. “There’s no suitable location yet to be found especially with all the construction. (Marine Corps Community Services) was happy we had it and we’re sorry to lose it, but we’ll keep our eyes open and keep requesting space.”

With all the coming construction, station residents can only wait for the new opportunities and activities in store.

## Squadrons wrap up Guam training, prepare for next deployment

FROM **INDEX** ON PAGE 1

squadrons to understand one another and how they accomplish their goals while training.

“We learned a few different things from each other as we’ve helped each other while out here,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Elizabeth Nunez, VFA-94 aviation ordnanceman. “They have the same procedures but different ways of doing it.”

The experience of working in a joint environment, coupled with the need to improve various skill sets for all three squadrons, was one of the main concerns for service members for whom this is their first deployment.

“The experience, whether it’s good or bad, if they can put this in their toolbox and set themselves up for success down the road, then this was a successful exercise,” said Hetrick.

November will be busy for the squadrons as they will have a short amount of time to train and prepare their personnel and aircraft to return to Guam and start training once more.

The experience of training in Guam will be essential to the squadrons’ continued success as they prepare to return to Guam, which they are slated to do in December to continue their training.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — A Strike Fighter Squadron 94 F/A-18 takes off the flightline here Oct. 30, returning to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni for the month before returning in December for additional follow-on training in the region. The overall focus of the exercise was to promote mission readiness as put forth by Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, 1st Marine Air Wing commanding officer. This was achieved by improving proficiency and efficiency in aerial combat, and ordnance loading. Approximately 190,000 of ordnance and 16,000 rounds of ammunition were expended throughout the month.



# Marines, sailors work together to fight stereotypes



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

DEDEDO, Guam — Lance Cpl. Josefina Hierromiranda, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 individual material readiness list manager, works to dig up a root at the Island Girl Power club here Oct. 29. Service members from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Strike Fighter Squadron 94 and VMFA-115 were on hand to help clear away debris and help perform a general clean up of the area.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

DEDEDO, Guam — Lt. Col. Aisha M. Bakkar, Marine Forces Pacific (Forward) public affairs officer-in-charge, pulls a combination of leftover debris and materials at the Island Girl Power club here Oct. 29. Service members from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Strike Fighter Squadron 94 and VMFA-115 worked together to rid any stereotypes the club members may have of female service members and the military in general.

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

**DEDEDO, Guam** — Marines and sailors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 spent the day at the Island Girl Power headquarters in the village of Dededo here Oct. 29.

The purpose of the visit was to clean up the area around the clubhouse, give local girls an opportunity to observe how female service members contribute to the local community and also promote awareness for issues facing young girls on the island.

“We aim to decrease teen pregnancies, suicides, substance abuse and sexual assaults,” said Juanita C.V. Blaz, Island Girl Power program director. “We do that by offering positive alternatives. We’re about positive role models, bringing people to them who are goal-oriented and positive contributors to the community.”

The club is geared toward girls ages 7-14. When they turn 15 years old, the girls then may become volunteers, continuing to provide guidance to other members.

Volunteers also help by coordinating classes, prevention activities and workshops.

The majority of the day was spent clearing away debris, cleaning and organizing the club’s recreational room and interacting with club members.

Island Girl Power members are also set to begin a community-revitalization project, which is slated to begin within a year’s time.

This is slated to work in conjunction with Guam’s lieutenant governor’s re-beautification project.

“We want to fall in line with the objective of having more facilities available for the community that encourage physical fitness and community gardening,” said Blaz.

Island Girl Power is, at its root, about reinforcing positive role models for its members, whether those role models are male or female, as evident by the diversity of service members who showed up.

“It’s all about the positive role models, male or female, people who are living positive, drug-free lives,” said Blaz. “Guam is not just the bars and clubs. Guam is

the families and youth. People need to see more of that side of the island.”

Some club members were not concerned with whether the service members were female or male but the positive influence they have on the club and the community as a whole.

“It’s inspiring,” said Kirsten L. Chien, a Island Girl Power volunteer. “They’re willing to do things to help the community, and I want to be able to do that.”

Chien also said the time the service members spent helping the club has inspired her by showing that even when some try to convince young girls to not follow their dreams, there are those who have followed their dreams to take a more active role by taking time to engage in the community.

“It shows girls what they can aspire to be, and they can be strong,” said Chien.

The pride in knowing they have inspired someone else to pursue their dreams and goals was a unique and pleasing opportunity for some service members.

“It feels good to help them,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessica D. McClain, a VFA-94 aviation structural mechanic safety equipment technician. “It shows there are other options besides what they have.”

The service members’ presence at the club could also affect those who are not even members of the club said McClain.

“When they see us doing (things such as this), they can learn from this and decide they might want to volunteer and help someone else,” said McClain. “It’s exactly why it’s important for them, because they’re very impressionable at this age.”

Service members’ responsibilities not only lie in answering the nation’s call in times of war, but also in peace by providing an example for others to emulate, not just within their ranks, but in the communities where they live.

One of the many ways they do this is by taking time to interact with local youth and clear away misconceptions of the military as a whole.

The perception the youth have of military personnel could one day influence them to serve.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

DEDEDO, Guam — Marines and sailors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 Squadron load bamboo sticks and other debris onto the bed of a pickup truck here at the Island Girl Power club Oct. 29. The IGP has worked in conjunction with service members to provide young girls an opportunity to see a more active role within their communities and combat any issues that girls many have in the region.

# Machiko “Mama-san” Hamamoto named Honorary Marine for lifetime of service

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

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 recognized Machiko Hamamoto, affectionately known as “Mama-san”, as an Honorary Marine for her many years of dutiful service in a ceremony at the Strike Fighter Squadron 94 hangar here Tuesday.

The title of Honorary Marine is an award bestowed on civilians who have made extraordinary contributions to the Marine Corps. The award is approved solely by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

“She’s a big proponent for advocating all the good things the U.S. military does,” said Lt. Col. Charles A. Redden, MALS-12 commanding officer.

Redden went on to describe how much Hamamoto’s influence extended past the station and into other areas of Japan.

“Whether it’s an earthquake or tsunamis, we’ve always helped in any kind of disaster, but it’s always been through Mama-san’s efforts to get a point of contact and a place to go,” said Redden. “She’s helpful to the U.S.-Japanese relationship, particularly with MALS-12, but it’s more than just that; it’s MAG-12, the air station and the Marine Corps as a whole.”

Hamamoto, 82, has spent 43 years working alongside Marines, organizing cleanup and community relations projects. She also collects Christmas gifts for local handicapped children and for children at Shobara Sakura Gakuen orphanage. Her helping hand has reached even to the U.S. She received an American Red Cross Certificate of Appreciation for her role in delivering Red Cross services after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake near San Francisco.

Hamamoto was also able to strengthen the bond between the U.S. military and Japan during the subsequent aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the northeastern region of Japan on March 11, 2011.

In June, Marines from MALS-12 volunteered their personal leave to go to the city of Higashimatsushima to aid relief efforts. Hamamoto helped spearhead getting service members there to help over several days.

“It wasn’t a surprise to us when right after the (disaster), Mama-san put in a call to the commanding officer requesting to go there,” said Jeffrey A. Fleming, MALS-12 Family Readiness Officer. “Mama-san wanted to go immediately and lead the charge. She was the communicator for us all, the (liaison).”

Fleming, who first met Hamamoto when he arrived as part of MALS-12 in 1990, spoke highly of his experiences with her and how she has helped afford him and countless others an opportunity to not only aid relief efforts, but experience Japan from a different perspective.

“It’s something I will always treasure,” said Fleming.

Seeing the impact Hamamoto has had on many Japanese residents has helped many service members be appreciative, be thankful for the circumstances in their lives and lend a helping hand to those less fortunate.”

“You’ve got to appreciate her for taking you there, getting that experience and helping others.

Humbleness and appreciation are also

what grounds Hamamoto as she continues in keeping the relationship strong between service members and Japanese residents. She works hard to arrange community relations projects and organize orphanage visits.

Modesty was apparant as she comprehends the magnitude of the award presented to her.

“I was surprised, almost like it was a dream,” said Hamamoto. “I feel I don’t deserve it. I can’t believe it happened.”

Though she now has the official designation of Honorary Marine, Hamamoto has considered herself a part of the Marine Corps family well before reaching 43 years of dutiful service.

“(The Marines) are like my family members,” said Hamamoto. “Even when I take one day off, they miss me. They’ll ask where I am, call me and look for me.”

It is this close, family-like relationship she has had with Marines, especially junior Marines, that has helped many transition when stationed here.

Hamamoto was able to bring a small reminder of home for some by taking them to different places around Japan said Cpl. Marcie L. McWaters, MALS-12 supply personnel administrative division clerk. McWaters, a self-described country girl, who after being here for nearly two years, grew homesick and looked for different ways to remind her of her home. “One day, she took me out in town to a horse farm,” McWaters said.

Hamamoto’s generosity extends well beyond that, sometimes inviting service members to her home to experience Japanese lifestyle and to get off the station and see all that Japan has to offer.

Even though she’s now officially an Honorary Marine, it is quite clear that many of the Marines already consider her as one. With the amount of dedication she has shown toward the Marine Corps over the years, it may safely be assumed Hamamoto still relishes the experiences and opportunities she has taken to help improve the perception of the Marine Corps and improve its relationship with the people of Japan.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Cpl. Matthew L. E. Doyle, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 community relations coordinator, escorts Machiko Hamamoto, Honorary Marine recipient, during an award ceremony at the Strike Fighter Squadron 94 hangar here Tuesday. The title of Honorary Marine is an award bestowed on civilians who have made extraordinary contributions to the Marine Corps. The award is approved solely by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Hamamoto, 82, has spent 43 years working alongside Marines, organizing cleanup and community relations projects. She also collects Christmas gifts for local handicapped children and for children at Shobara Sakura Gakuen orphanage. Her helping hand has reached even to the U.S. She received an American Red Cross certificate of appreciation for her role in delivering Red Cross services after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake near San Francisco.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 staff render honors at the Strike Fighter Squadron 94 hangar here Tuesday as part of a ceremony naming Machiko Hamamoto an Honorary Marine as recognized by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Hamamoto is one of only 72 awardees to be given that honor since 1992 and only one of three of Japanese descent.



# Weather stands no chance against Marines’ new Rawinsondes

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines from station weather and forecasting sent up a weather balloon with a brand new piece of technology at the seawall here Oct. 19.

The new RadioSonde-92 GPS system replaced the old RS-80 system, which has been the military’s system for years.

“ARawinsonde is a piece of equipment which attaches to a balloon and goes into the atmosphere to send us back information, so we may make a proper forecast,” said Gunnery Sgt. Willie B. Paris, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron meteorology oceanography training staff noncommissioned officer.

The Rawinsonde sends back information over a radio frequency in order to minimize as much interference as possible.

“The Rawinsonde can send back information such as wind speed, wind direction, the general amount of wind, temperature, atmospheric pressure and other pieces of information,” said Paris.

This data allows Marines the opportunity to forecast weather and understand atmospheric stability.

“We haven’t done our own launches here in years for many reasons,” said Warrant Officer Dante Rakestraw, H&HS METOC Officer.

Lately, weather Marines haven’t used Rawinsonde due to the amount of information readily available through the internet. Because of a new system called Meteorological Mobile Facilities (R) military personnel here weren’t able to acquire the new Rawinsonde, said Rakestraw.

“We usually only need the Rawinsonde to go up to about 30,000 feet, but they can go all the way up to 70,000 feet above sea level,” said Rakestraw.

Weather Marines need these Rawinsonde to travel to approximately the height of the jet stream in order to retrieve the most valuable information. As the balloon lifts the Rawinsonde into the air, the Rawinsonde is constantly picking up data and sending it back.

“As they travel up in the atmosphere the air expands and a 300 gram balloon can become the size

of a small house before it bursts,” said Rakestraw.

As this technology progresses, it allows not only the weight of the Rawinsonde to decrease, but also their size.

“The old sonde was like a two by two box and the new ones now are just tiny,” said Cpl. Stephen M. Hering, an H&HS aviation meteorologist technician.

With the technology shrinking, sondes are easier to carry and launch.

Hering says there have been instances from when launching three balloons at a time was necessary because the old Rawinsonde were so heavy, but now only one balloon for each sonde is needed.

While deployed, Rawinsonde are used much more often and may be the only source of weather information which is available.

“While deployed these sonds will be launched twice a day on average,” said Paris.

Since the Rawinsonde can only be used once, it is of high importance for them to work correctly.

“One day in a deployed environment, (such as) Afghanistan, they will be working out of a METOC van and when you don’t have the amount of data as we have here on station, then you will need to be able to launch these Rawinsonde reliably,” said Paris.

Marines still send up Rawinsonde in deployed environments every day.

“While I was deployed we sent up 2 sondes a day and we worked closely with the British,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rodriguez, H&HS METOC forecaster.

“We would send up the one at night and they would send up one in the morning. With this new technology they could track our Rawinsonde and we could track theirs.”

This new technology is helping Marines in the field to detect weather changes and save lives.

“With the new technology sending up Rawinsonde is easy, as long as you plug in the battery and know (the equipment) is talking then you’re good,” said Rodriguez.

The new technology is still on back order for fleet bases but new equipment hasn’t had major problems or defects arise since its release in the field.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CPL. BRANDON WILLIAMS



COURTESY PHOTO BY CPL. BRANDON WILLIAMS

A group of weather Marines get ready to release a large 300-gram weather balloon in order to understand the weather around Iwakuni Oct. 19. They stand behind a large stack of Helium tanks which are used to fill the balloons allowing them to reach heights of approximately 70,000 feet above sea level. With the technology shrinking, Radiosonde are easier to carry and launch.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CPL. BRANDON WILLIAMS

A large 300-gram weather balloon floats slowly into the atmosphere while carrying a small but heavy Rawinsonde here Oct. 19. The Rawinsonde collects data from the time it is released until the radio transmission is disconnected and the balloon bursts. This data allows Marines the opportunity to forecast weather and understand atmospheric stability.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CPL. BRANDON WILLIAMS

Staff Sgt. Michael E. Fitch and Sgt. Jonathan Macdonald, meteorology oceanography analyst forecasters, assist Sgt. Travis W. Patton, a meteorology oceanography analyst forecaster, with filling a weather balloon with helium here Oct. 19. Weather balloons expand to approximately 300-grams but can expand up to the size of a small house before it bursts, which may happen at 70,000 feet above sea level. With the technology shrinking, Rawinsonde are easier to carry and launch. While deployed, Rawinsonde are used more often and may be the only source of weather information available. The new technology is still on back order for fleet bases but the new equipment hasn’t had any major problems or defects arise since its release in the field.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CPL. BRANDON WILLIAMS

Sgt. Travis W. Patton, a meteorology oceanography analyst forecaster, holds a weather balloon while his fellow Marines help to keep it from flying away as they fill the balloon with approximately 300 grams of Helium here Oct. 19. The weather balloon will carry up a new technology in order to help understand and forecast the upcoming weather. By being able to detect the incoming weather patterns, it allows Marines the upperhand in many situations and helps to plan attacks depending on different scenarios. The new RawinSonde-92 GPS system replaced the old RS-80 system, which has been the military’s normal system for years. Weather Marines need these Radiosonde to travel to the height of the jet stream in order to retrieve all of the most valuable intelligence. Marines still send up Radiosonde in deployed environments every day.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CPL. BRANDON WILLIAMS

Sgt. Travis W. Patton and Staff Sgt. Michael E. Fitch, meteorology oceanography analyst forecasters, use zip ties in order to seal off the opening to a 300 gram weather balloon here Oct. 19. The Marines fill the balloon and hold it tight before attaching the Rawinsonde and release it so it may begin retrieving data.



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

3/5 works with 15th MEU Marines, trains in communications

CPL. JOHN ROBBART III  
15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — Communication is crucial to any battlefield commander and his troops. To ensure communication is established, Marines behind the scenes train continuously to make sure they can make a connection every time. In order to increase proficiency in their trade, 17 communications Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted a four-day field operation to enhance their skills. During this evolution, they also trained eight counterparts of their soon-to-be Battalion Landing Team - 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., at Reconnaissance, Selection and Occupation of Position 95, Sept. 26-29. The evolution included working with the different types of satellites Marines use in the field to receive and transmit data. The Marines came together with all their

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — Sergeant Curtis M. Brown, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit switching chief, communications section, makes a minor adjustment on the Phoenix Satellite Communications terminal at the unit's field operation on Reconnaissance, Selection and Occupation of Position 95, Sept. 26-29. The training involved Marines from the MEU's command element and their soon to be Battalion Landing Team - 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. In addition, 3/5 learned how to use a satellite they will only have once they become a part of 15th MEU. The satellite the 3/5 Marines worked on is called the Support Wide Area Network, version I. No matter what unit the Marine was from, at the end of the training, the communications Marines increased their proficiency in their respective trades. 15th MEU is currently scheduled to receive 3/5 as one of its subordinate elements early 2012.

different specialties to ensure their pieces of the puzzle fit together. In addition, 3/5 learned how to use a satellite they will only have once they become a part of 15th MEU. "This joint training was hosted by 15th MEU's communications section," said 1st Lt. Robert C. Schronski, 3/5 communications platoon commander. "They were kind enough to invite us out and start training before we become a MEU. In addition, we were able to learn how to use some gear that is not organic to our unit, but will become ours when we fall under the MEU," added Schronski. The satellite that the 3/5 Marines worked on is called the Support Wide Area Network, version I. Once 3/5 and the other subordinate elements join the MEU, they will receive SWAN systems to facilitate communications between them and the command element. Like any other specialty, continuous training is the key to proficiency. Since 3/5 does not have a SWAN, their training consisted of its assembly and usage. While the 3/5 Marines were learning about the SWAN, command element Marines received their own training. Another system

introduced was the SWAN mini, the most compact of the SWAN versions. Manufacturer representatives were on hand to teach proper function of the system. "In addition to showing the 3/5 Marines how to use the SWAN v.1, the command element's Marines are being taught how to use the SWAN mini," said Sgt. Curtis M. Brown, 15th MEU switching chief. "Since there is also a large personnel changeover, we are ensuring the new Marines are all caught up," added Brown. No matter what unit the Marine was from, at the end of the training, the communications Marines increased their proficiency in their respective trades. "Some of the junior Marines were exposed to the SWAN mini, 3/5 got schooled up on the SWAN v. I, everyone learned something," said Cpl. Garrett L. Spinks, 15th MEU satellite communications operator. "Everyone built up their proficiency with the satellite and that's what going to the field is all about - learning," added Spinks. 15th MEU is currently scheduled to receive 3/5 as one of its subordinate elements early 2012.



CPL. JOHN ROBBART III

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — Sergeant Jared R. Hale, communications platoon, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment data networking chief, sets up the Support Wide Area Network version I during a field operation hosted by 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Reconnaissance, Selection and Occupation of Position 95, Sept. 28. The training increased proficiency of all communications Marines and helped familiarize them with their equipment and with each other. 15th MEU will receive 3/5 as one of its subordinate elements for their upcoming deployment. To ensure that communication is established, Marines behind the scenes train to make sure they can make a connection every time. The evolution included working with the different types of satellites Marines use in the field to receive and transmit data. The Marines came together with their different specialties to ensure their pieces of the puzzle fit together.



CPL. JOHN ROBBART III

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

**Freestyle Tour**  
Jason Britton and Eric Hoenshell are scheduled to visit the station Nov. 17. They will perform a street bike demo in front of the WaterWorks pool 4 - 5 p.m followed by an autograph session.

**Operation Comfort and Care**  
Marine Corps Family Team Building will collect items for this holiday season's Operation Comfort and Care packages to be sent to deployed service members in support of OIF/OEF. Tables will be set up outside the commissary and MCX 3 - 7 p.m. Nov. 18 and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Nov. 19. Requested items include: individually wrapped snacks, foods and treats. Personal hygiene and toiletries are also needed. We will also need volunteers during this time and Nov. 22 for packaging the care packages. Call 253-3754 for details or to volunteer.

**Turkey Trot**  
Iwakuni Roadrunners is scheduled to host a Turkey Trot, Nov. 24, beginning at IronWorks Gym. Registration will run from 8 - 8:45 a.m. One-mile children run will begin at 9 a.m. and a four-mile run will

begin at 9:30 a.m. One person from each category will receive a prize. All children running the one-mile children run will get a Thanksgiving prize. For more information call Staff Sgt. Mancuso at 253-6947.

**Toys for Tots Collection**  
Toys for Tots collection is slated to begin Nov. 26 from 5-7 p.m. The collection will be in front of the exchange Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Volunteers in dress blues are needed. If you are interested in volunteering, visit or call the Single Marine Program Hornet's Nest at 253-4656 or visit or call the SMP Marine Lounge at 253-5368.

**Original Harlem Globetrotters**  
The original Harlem Globetrotters are scheduled to visit the station Dec. 3. Don't miss your chance to see the Harlem Globetrotters at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts 7 - 9 p.m. This event is free and open to everyone.

**Florida Marlins and the Mermaids Tour**  
Four players from the Florida Marlins are scheduled to conduct a Youth Baseball Clinic and the Mermaids Dance

Troupe are scheduled to teach a Dance clinic at Penny Lake Softball Field #2 starting at 4 - 8 p.m. Dec. 7. After the clinic, the Marlins players will play in an adult softball game. If anyone is interested in signing up for the game, please call MCCS Productions at 253-3727. This is a free event and open to everyone!

**Native American History Observance**  
A Native American History Month Observance is scheduled to be held in the Iwakuni Club ballroom 11:30 a.m. Nov. 18.

**Main Gate Construction**  
Roadway repaving at the Main Gate is scheduled through January. This construction will impact traffic weekdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. During these times, all outbound traffic will be redirected to the North and Monzen Gates. Pedestrians and bicyclists will not be affected. The visitor center will be fully operational.

**4th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair**  
The 4th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair is scheduled Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Crossroads Mall. Deadline to enter is Nov. 1. The fair is open to SOFA and Non-SOFA artists, craft makers,

home business owners and fundraisers. For more information e-mail Valeriekpsaunders@yahoo.com.

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

Miscellaneous

**1999 Mitsubishi Delica**  
White, 4x4, seating for eight. A great vehicle for the outdoor enthusiast. Looks and runs great, 120 kilometers, \$3700. For more information, call Chaplain Baker at (cell) 090-6161-0213 or (home) 241-4537.

**Mattress**  
Queen size pillow top mattress for sale for \$100.00. For more information contact Carrie Baltazar at 080-4073-3115.

Jobs

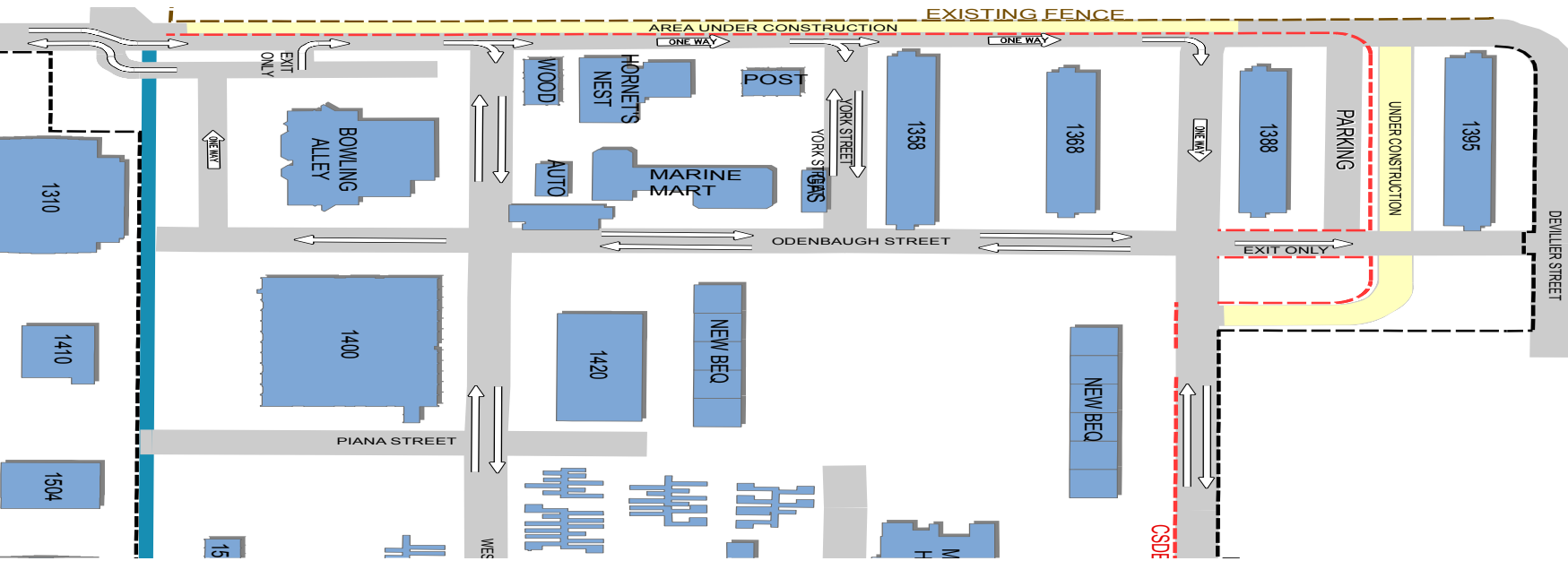
**Program management positions**  
Louis Berger Group is seeking experienced DoD, retired or separated military members for program management positions located at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan. Some requirements include a

minimum 4-year degree, 5-years experience, U.S. citizen, able to obtain secret security clearance, experience with military requirements, planning and operations. 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.

**Part-time Dental Assistant Position**  
The dental clinic is seeking a certified dental assistant. For more information, call 253-3331 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. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like to be published. You may also submit a brief or classified ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or call 253-5551. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis.

Construction, big changes to affect northside traffic



Newell Drive, between Bldg. 1260 and the Bowling Alley, is scheduled to become one-way traffic Saturday. Workers will put up a separation fence. The road going to northside will be on the right side of the road. Once the fence is put up, the left side will be the road to the Contractor's Gate. In order to exit northside, you must drive through the Bowling Alley parking lot to the S-shaped exit. This project will affect traffic long-term. Monthly updates will be provided.



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**  
2nd & 4th Saturday 10 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath Meeting  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service  
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy Communion Service (Small Chapel)  
Tuesday 9 a.m. Ladies Bible Study  
Wednesday 5:45 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)  
1st & 3rd Thursday 9:30 a.m. MOPS

**Church of Christ**  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (Small Chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Service Fellowship

**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

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

Photo of the week



Lance Cpl. Donald J. Lomax, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment operator and Optic Nation member, plays the new Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 for the Playstation 3 video game system at the Marine Corps Exchange here Monday during a launch party for the game's release. 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, November 11, 2011**  
7 p.m. Footloose (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Drive (R)  
*Premiere*

**Monday, November 14, 2011**  
7 p.m. Drive (R)

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011**  
Theater Closed

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011**  
Theater Closed

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**  
7 p.m. Moneyball (PG-13)

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**  
4 p.m. Puss in Boots (PG)  
*Premiere*

**Sunday, November 13, 2011**  
4 p.m. Puss in Boots (PG)  
7 p.m. Moneyball (PG-13)  
*Premiere*

**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 rice, 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, bowknots, blueberry muffin, apple pie, devil's food cake with coconut buttercream frosting, shortbread cookie.

**Friday:** Chicken rice soup, savory baked chicken, fried catfish, salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, long grain and wild rice, summer squash, asparagus, chicken amandine, 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.

Departments battle to end for championship

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron competed against each other in a field meet at Penny Lake field here, Nov. 4.

The four departments inside H&HS: logistics, operations, headquarters and the Provost Marshal's Office, faced off in several events to promote friendly competition and help build unit cohesion.

"We can see a lot of good motivation, team camaraderie and esprit de corps being built," said Lt. Col. Michael Coletta, H&HS commanding officer.

The morning started with a squadron run from the station parade deck out to Penny Lake fields with the Headquarters department leading.

"It's good getting a chance to get out here, shake hands and talk to people," said Coletta. "This is an opportunity for me to take the morning off, just talk to Marines, share some camaraderie with them and then eat some chow with them afterwards."

Departments competed in tug-of-war, relay races, arm wrestling, humvee pulls, pugil sticks and more.

Service members shouted and cheered as their departments battled it out, every spectator wanting their warrior to be the victor.

"I know Marines love to compete, it's in our blood," said Coletta.

Coletta even helped out Headquarters in the tug-of-war competition, coming in second behind Operations.

"You see a lot of people binding together right now, cheering each other on," said Lance Cpl. Byron D. Johnson, Headquarters department and station Installation Personnel Administration Center diary clerk.

Johnson participated in every event and his actions showed motivation through the entire field meet.

"I think if we keep having fun at events like this, everyone will stay happy," he said.

Service members gave their all in every competition while the excitement showed on everyone's faces.

"We're doing it for fun, but we still want to win," said Cpl. Princess Woodside, Logistics department warehouse clerk.

Woodside competed in the arm wrestling contest and won against both of her female opponents.

"It was fun because I've never arm wrestled before," said Woodside.

When it was time for pugil

sticks, everyone gathered around the paint circle in the field, while each department picked their three best fighters. Every match brought more excitement from the crowd, exclamationed shouts every time a strike landed.

"They didn't have anything like this (at my last station)," said Cpl. Carmi G. Smith, PMO patrolman. "This is actually pretty interesting."

Smith participated in the tug-of-war with others from PMO.

"(I'm here) helping my fellow Marines I work with to give them morale support and cheer them on," said Smith.

The dizzy izzy was the last event, where the participants sprinted out to a baseball bat, placed their head on top of the bat and the other side on the ground, then spun around the bat 20 times before running back to tag the next person in their team. Every onlooker ended up laughing at some point from watching the runners stumble and fall before making the run.

Operations won the most points by the end of the event.

Coletta spoke to the service members after the meet, congratulating all who came out and also talked about a field meet against Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 scheduled for the coming spring.

The crowd roared back in excitement at the chance to go against MWSS-171.



Lance Cpl. Byron D. Johnson, Headquarters department and station Installation Personnel Administration Center diary clerk, competes and wins the finals for Headquarters department in the Own the Bone competition during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron field meet at Penny Lake fields here, Nov. 4. The four Squadron departments competed to build unit cohesion.



Lance Cpl. Michael Young, Operations department and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting specialist, and Lance Cpl. Pham Nguyen, station Provost Marshal's Office K-9 handler, compete in arm wrestling during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron field meet at Penny Lake fields here, Nov. 4. The four departments inside H&HS: logistics, operations, headquarters and Provost Marshal's Office, faced off in several events to promote friendly competition and build unit cohesion.





14th Annual  
December 4, Noon - 6 PM, Hornet's Nest

**TOYS FOR TOTS  
MOTORCYCLE RALLY**

**FREE!**

*BBQ ★ Music ★ Motorcycle Rally/Contest*  
*Heavy Equipment Static Display Provided by MW8817*  
*Bring a gift to donate to Toys for Tots.*  
*Gifts needed for all ages, infant to teen.*

**TOYS FOR TOTS**

Open to all SOFA personnel.  
253-3585 [www.mccsiwakuni.com/smp](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com/smp)

**MCAS**  
IWAKUNI

**MCAS**  
SEMPER FIT  
MCAS IWAKUNI JAPAN