

PINNED ON

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SING, SHOUT, SHOW-OFF

Japanese students visit M.C. Perry elementary to build camaraderie | P. 6 & 7

WEAR-N-TEAR

Runners kick up dust in Turkey Trot | P. 11

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 45 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Holiday lights shine upon darkness



CPL STEVE ACUFF
Family and friends aboard the air station watch the tree lighting during the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony here, Saturday. Service members and family aboard the air station gathered to celebrate the 10th annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony to usher in the holiday season.

Feathers, fouls fly as MALS-12 competes in 2011 Turkey Bowl

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 had its fourth annual Turkey Bowl flag football game at Penny Lake fields here Nov. 23. The game brought together all ranks in MALS-12 for friendly competition and unit cohesion.

"It's a way for enlisted or officers to prove who is the best," said Jeffrey A. Fleming, MALS-12 family readiness officer.

Teams were divided by ranks. Noncommissioned officers played against staff NCOs, and junior Marines played against officers.

"It is important for the Marines to get out here and have fun," said Fleming. "It's not about rank once they're out here, but just (the Marines) getting together as teams and having some good competition."

NCOs and staff NCOs kept the score close until the end.

In overtime, the staff NCOs were within 15 yards of their winning touchdown when a high-tossed pass was intercepted by the NCOs and ran across the field for victory.

SEE **BOWL** ON PAGE 3


Shirasaki Shrine priests purify, bless airport site

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station leaders attended the Iwakuni Kintai-kyo Airport groundbreaking purification and blessing ceremony here Nov. 25.

The purification and blessing ceremony was conducted by Iwakuni based Shirasaki Shrine priests. The priests submitted offerings to the Shinto god and local guardian spirits to attend the event and keep the construction workers safe while building the airport.

SEE **PURIFY** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Benefits of living a thankful life’

LT. CMDR. LOUIS C. LEE
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

In the process of preparing my Thanksgiving sermon, I did some research and found one-third of people in the world do not have access to a Bible. Therefore, if you have a Bible, then you’re better off than one-third of the world’s population. If you awoke this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than one million people who will not survive the week. If you have never experienced the danger of war, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are more fortunate than 500 million people on earth. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, \$20 in your pocket and a place to sleep you are richer than 75 percent of the world.

Being thankful is a choice we make. The benefit of a grateful heart is astounding. First of all, it increases your personal happiness. We often correlate our happiness to our circumstances, but this is a very unstable and poor way to try and live a happy

life. Our joy should come from deep within ourselves, which overcomes our current situations or circumstances. Our faith in God assures we look up, not down or sideways.

Secondly, gratefulness enhances our relationships. As you probably know by now, relationships are very important. We live our lives in the web of relationships interconnected by our status and the different hats we wear. Our aroma of ungratefulness or thankfulness will spread to the relationships around us and will either rise like a balloon or sink like a rock in the ocean. You can call it leadership, charisma, personality or whatever you wish. Everyone appreciates a thankful person. Leaders who display thankfulness tend to excel and succeed far beyond their careers. Thankfulness reveals the core person outwardly in our marriages, our family relationships, our friends and co-workers. Grateful living is a choice we make, which will determine our destiny!

Third and lastly, it will solidify our relationship with God. Did you know we all have an inner

desire or need to give thanks to our Creator? Even the atheist or nonbeliever feels in the mood to be thankful from time to time. Harriet Martineau was an atheist. One morning she and a Christian friend stepped out into the glories of a beautiful fall morning. As Harriet saw the brilliant sun peaking through the haze, the frost on the meadow and the brightly colored leaves making their way lazily to the ground, she was filled with the beauty and she burst forth with, “I am so thankful. I’m just so grateful for it all.”

And her believing friend asked, “Grateful to whom, my dear?” There is something inside of each of us that needs to give thanks to God. When we spend time giving thanks to God for all we have, we feel close to him, and a sense of deep reverence and satisfaction comes upon us. I think that is exactly why 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God...” It is God’s plan, his will for us, to give thanks to him. He made us for that. Remember, everything we have is from God. I challenge you to live a thankful life for this is the most successful life we will have, and most of all, it is the will of God.

December Promotions

CLC-36

Cpl.

Artagos, Dominique L.
Bell, Chuck A.
Ivanov, Asen K.
Welgraven, Kaylib D.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.

Baird, Alexander J.
Borland, Kyle J.
Chiodo, Matthew P.
Gholston, Arissa R.
Just, Caleb V.
Paulino, Steven J.
Segura, John A.
Watson, Mauliola J.

Cpl.

Keller, Oliver S.
Kent, Robert D.
Rollins, Khiel V.
Standard, Brandon M.
Winskey, Cody M.

Sgt.

Larkin, Patrick E.

Staff Sgt.

Torres, Leomar A.

H&HS

Pfc.

Wright, Misty J.

Lance Cpl.

Becker Jr., Dennis C.
Blount, Kayvon A.
Buenemann, Joshua A.
Elwood, Cory R.
Guajardo, Angel C.
Lindsay, Luke A.
Vilione, Mark A.
White, Joshua D.

Cpl.

Gallagher, James L.
Ki, James S.
Tierrablanca, Cesar
Trotter Jr., Kenneth K.
York II, Edward C.

Sgt.

Eckman III, Joshua
Myers, Andrew P.

Staff Sgt.

Becerra Jr., Juan
McGinty, Devin M.
Meredith, David T.

Gunnery Sgt.

Bradford, Joshua D.

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.

Burch, William F.
Moncur, Tyler J.

Cpl.

Dullea, Christopher J.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.

Friedman, Daniel J.
Santos Jr., Ronald T.

Cpl.

Kellogg, Samuel B.
Leal, David J.
Rodriguez, Annaliza
Russell, Julia M.

Sgt.

Shi, Robert S.

Staff Sgt.

Munoz, Katherine

MACS-4 DET B

Lance Cpl.

Jiang, Leagkwei

Cpl.

Sturdevant Jr., Randall P.

BOWL FROM PAGE 1

MALS-12 hosted the MALS-12 Turkey Bowl as a way for Marines to join together by ranks where most games have teams grouped by shops or units.

“It’s important for the Marines to get to come out and do this to bring everyone together and to build camaraderie between the ranks,” said Maj. William G. Slack, MALS-12 operations officer.

Slack, dressed in a red and white wig and “Slackdaddy” jersey, scored one of the many officer team’s goals.

“I’m definitely looking forward to getting to play the NCOs in our next match,” said Slack. “This is one of those games that comes with a lot of bragging rights. You have to play the game to see who is best.”

Junior Marines and officers battled it out for a chance to go against the NCOs for first place.

“It’s important to go out there and work as a team,” said Lance Cpl. Gabriel H. Beltres, MALS-12 calibrator technician. “It’s fun being out there getting to play.”

The officer’s team shut out the junior Marines 32-0.

“We did our best defensively, but we just couldn’t score,” said Beltres. “We gave our best in the end and that’s all we could really do.”

NCOs and staff NCOs from the first game stayed in the bleachers to cheer and joke with the players on the field.

The second part of the games are scheduled to take place Friday with the junior Marines playing the staff NCOs and the officers playing the NCOs to see which ranks played the best.

Groundbreaking ceremony opens new airport to local community



LANCE CPL CHARLIE CLARK

An Iwakuni City Shirasaki Shrine priestess walks to her seat during the purification and blessing of the Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport ground breaking ceremony here Nov. 25. The priests asked the Shinto god and local guardian spirits to bless and protect the construction workers as they build the new air terminal. The airport boasts easy access to both American and Japanese customers.

Ceremony offers prayers, blessings to support local community airport opening

PURIFY FROM PAGE 1

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, Edward B. Cutshall, Defense Policy Review Initiative director, and Rear Adm. Tatsuya Komatsu, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Fleet Air Wing 31 commanding officer, attended the ceremony to show support to the Iwakuni community and its leaders.

“It is important for us as members of the greater community to show how much we appreciate their efforts,” Stewart said. “The ceremony itself was a sacred Shinto ritual; we were proud to attend and show our respect and friendship.”

There was a commercial airport in Iwakuni from 1952 to 1964. Since its closure, many community members and leaders have worked diligently to provide this service to the local community again.

Stewart continues to coordinate plans with Iwakuni community leaders to ensure the completion of this extensive project.

“Any large, complicated project takes a great deal of effort to bring to fruition,” Stewart said. “I’m glad to support friends in the local community, and see their dream realized.”

The Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport will help the local communities by providing commercial flights out of Iwakuni – instead of the inconvenience of traveling to Fukuoka or Hiroshima, which will save time and money for station and Iwakuni community residents.

Yoshihiko Fukuda, Iwakuni City mayor, seemed relieved and excited now that the airport construction can finally get started.

“I am so glad from the bottom of my heart,” Fukuda said. “It has been a long, winding road with twists and turns. Finally, we are able to celebrate the ground breaking ceremony to resume the commercial airport service, which has been the earnest desire of the community.”

The airport boasts easy access to both American and Japanese customers, smooth running lines and large windows to watch the airplanes while waiting.

It is also expected to boost the economy of the Iwakuni community through increased tourism traffic.

This project allows the station to give back to the community for the many years of service and support offered.

The airport could also be beneficial to Marines and sailors stationed here.

“This facility will help local businesses grow and prosper,” Stewart said. “It will certainly allow Marines, sailors and family members of our station community to move around a little easier.”

The airport’s logistics of time slots for flights and a set date to open up the service are still works in progress along with the construction.

“It seems real to me that the project is steadily stepping forward,” Fukuda said. “Also, today I felt this is the moment the enthusiasm and patient waiting are just about to come true. So many people have worked and contributed for over 20 years for this day. My heart is too full for words.”

The airport is another manifestation of what the American and Japanese governments can realize and build together through coordination and friendship.

“I feel our first and primary target is completed. It relieved me to see this day come true,” Shinji Kashiwabara, Iwakuni Commercial Air Terminal Building Company Ltd. president said. “We expect bilateral coordination between the governments of Japan and the U.S. We continue our efforts in support of each other because our goal is to make this project a reality at the earliest possible date.”

The Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport was named after the Kintai Bridge, which is a beloved historical landmark in Iwakuni City.

ARFF pins station firefighters, teach pinning techniques



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Fukii Takuya, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Fire Department deputy chief, translates for Gunnery Sgt. Shane Smoger, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Specialist, section leader and incident commander with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, during a cross-training exercise with MCAS Iwakuni Fire Department here Nov. 17. Takuya explains to the firefighters the area where the aircraft will be pinned underneath.



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Fukii Takuya, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Fire Department deputy chief, translates as Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam Hall, an aviation structural safety equipment mechanic with Strike Fighter Squadron 94, explains how the pilot's seat works during a cross-training exercise here Nov. 17. Hall explained how to pin the seat and the dangers of accidentally hitting the equipment causing the pilot to eject.

LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Strike Fighter Squadron 94 and firefighters with the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni fire department conducted pinning drills and aircraft familiarization here Nov. 17.

The purpose of the training was to enhance camaraderie and enhance mission readiness.

The training involved familiarization with the aircraft as a whole but revolved around the importance of pinning the landing gear of an aircraft. Pinning is done by placing a metal pin into a built-in slot on an aircraft's landing gear and is done to safely restrain the landing gear while personnel are under the aircraft.

The approach is the most important part of a pinning drill.

"You have to approach the aircraft at a 45 degree angle without walking directly in front of the weapons systems or the intake," said Sgt. Andre Park, ARFF training noncommissioned officer with H&HS. "We need to take the steps needed to keep ourselves safe. We don't want to become a casualty."

The incident commander, who is normally the section leader, will be in charge of the overall scene of the emergency.

Three crews, each made up of three people, would respond to an emergency; the primary, the secondary and the hot spot crew.

The hot spot is an alert position on the airfield, making it possible for rapid response to the emergency.

"Every scenario we're involved in we attack with full crews, because when you're arriving on scene you don't know if there's going to be a fire," said Park.

VFA-94 provided an F/A-18 Hornet loaded with Captive Air Training Missile-9 M and Bomb Dummy Unit-45 ordnance.

Chief Petty Officer Franklin Dominguez, Ordnance Chief with VFA-94 explained to the MCAS

Iwakuni Fire Department the importance of safety when working with an aircraft loaded with ordnance. Dominguez also went over the differences between training, live ordnance and safety ordnance.

MCAS Iwakuni Fire Department learned about pinning the pilot's seat to the safety canopy and the procedures to get the pilot out safely in case of an emergency.

"I showed them how the pilot was attached to the seat," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam Hall, an aviation structural safety equipment mechanic with VFA-94. "I showed them what not to touch and stay away from. They could accidentally hit the equipment while they're trying to pull the pilot out and cause them to eject. It's for everyone's safety."

ARFF Marines went over a variety of different scenarios to help train station firefighters.

"We actually covered a large amount of emergencies that happen with F-18s from basic shutdown procedures to safety and dealing with live and training ordnance, walking directly in front of the weapons systems or the intake," said Gunnery Sgt. Shane Smoger, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Specialist, section leader and incident commander with H&HS. "I think it's important because it's part of our partnership with Japan. We teach them and they teach us and it's part of a team concept in Iwakuni."

The MCAS Fire Department isn't always afforded the opportunity to cross train with ARFF Marines so they take every opportunity possible.

"We love working with the Marines," said Fukii Takuya, MCAS Iwakuni Fire Department deputy chief. "We are all Japanese firefighters but we always try and coordinate with crash crew firefighters for some cross training."

The MCAS Iwakuni Fire Department hopes to coordinate with the Iwakuni City Fire Department and ARFF Marines soon for similar training.

Families brought together to have fun

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Youth and Teen Center and the School Age Care Center hosted an Energy Star Family Fun Night at the SAC center here Nov. 22.

Families were brought together to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner, games and to try to win a new bike.

"It was a great event," said Eugene Clark, Youth and Teen Center director. "We were able to have all types of families come out, single mothers, single fathers, dual military parents and single military parents."

Invitations went out to any families who wished to come out and have a good time.

"The whole goal of the event was to bring the families together," said Clark. "If it makes the kids happy then we're happy."

Throughout the event there were small raffles for the children so they could win prizes. These small raffles led up to one large raffle at the end of the night.

"We had a raffle for two bikes, one for the 5-year-olds and younger and one for the kids who are 6-14 years old," said Clark.

Everyone who came received a raffle ticket, and people were allowed to earn multiple tickets throughout the night by winning different games.

All of the games involved both parents and children; there was a scavenger hunt, Cupcake Walk Bingo, and Raffle Drop, a quizzing game, which asked questions relative to a specific chosen topic.

"A lot of the events were designed around family fun," said Clark. "The scavenger hunt was made so that the adults would have to help their children with the harder clues, but the children would be able to get a lot of them."

These games make the parents work closely with their children, creating a fun and relaxed atmosphere for the whole family to enjoy.

"The scavenger hunt was really fun. Me and my daughter had a blast going around looking for all the clues," said Gunnery Sgt. Wilfredo I. Rios, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ground support equipment production controller chief.

In order to win the raffles the children participated in games where they could win more tickets.

"I love the idea that the games were set up so the kids had to play all the different games to earn the tickets," said Rios.

The idea behind winning your own tickets was a different style of event as opposed to the usual potluck.

"It wasn't one of those events where it's like we're having a potluck, go eat and then you're done. It was well organized to get the families involved, but it wasn't too structured to where you feel like you have to be doing what they do," said Rios.

Some participants thought it was a good change to the normal types of events, which take place here.

"There are a lot of events that happen this time of year, especially in the military. There are a lot of potlucks and get-togethers so I thought it was great timing," said Rios.

The timing was important and many scheduling challenges came into play.

Scheduling this event was difficult due to the scheduling of the Marine Corps Ball, the Mini Marine Corps Ball and all the Thanksgiving events said Marcy R. Pearson, the SAC director.

It was a great time and parents usually don't come out like that, but with the amount of communication with all the parents and different contacts, it made it possible to get those from many different walks of life to come and enjoy the family fun, Pearson added.

All branches, ranks, children and spouses who are a part of families aboard the station joined in on the festivities to spend time with their children and have a night to remember.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Families line up to play games at the School Age Care Center here Nov. 22. Throughout the event there were small raffles for children to win prizes which eventually led up to one large raffle at the end of the night. Families were brought together to enjoy Thanksgiving festivities. Invitations went out to any family who wished to come and have a good time. Participants were allowed to earn multiple tickets throughout the night by winning different games. As the holiday season rolls on, station residents can continue to enjoy events such as this with holiday spirit.

Culture exchanged, friendships grown, M.C Perry hosts guests

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Matthew C. Perry elementary school hosted the Japanese Cultural Festival at the school here Nov. 23. The Shunan International Children's Club, the Shunan Children's Choir and the Yamaguchi Prefectural Shinnanyo High School Brass Band visited M.C. Perry elementary school to continue the ongoing friendship of the station and Shunan city.

"The original joining together of the two cities of Iwakuni and Shunan occurred after our elementary and high schools both did drives to support the Japanese community in Operation Tomodachi," said Netra Harwell, M.C. Perry elementary school Educational Technologist. "Last year, Shunan city came down with their choir and their dancers to say thank you for our support of the entire country of Japan."

This is the second year Shunan city had its performers visit the M.C. Perry elementary school in order to strengthen local bonds.

"This year it is a continuation of that friendship that was established," said Harwell. "It created a bond and a friendship that we hope will last a long time."

The students of M.C. Perry elementary school benefit from these events by gaining a sense of understanding of the Japanese culture that surrounds them every day.

"I think exposure is the key because it then enriches (the student's) world and it increases their willingness to go new places and try new things," said Harwell. "I think that exposure is the first step to going off base, going into the community and doing what we can to establish long-term relationships with our Japanese friends."

The day started with the performers visiting the 6th graders of M.C. Perry elementary school in their classrooms. The performers then went to recess with the students and ate lunch in the school cafeteria.

The performance started with the Shinnanyo High School Brass Band playing the Star Spangled Banner.

"I really enjoyed eating lunch here and getting to dance," said Kirara Yeda, 9, dancer for the Shunan International Children's Club, Children's Dance Division.

Kirara Yeda, along with Juri Tanabe, 8, performed dances for the watching crowd.

The Shunan Children's Choir then performed a musical, "Puss in Boots," followed by a song from the choir and their teacher.

"I really want them to come back," said Isaac Doering, 8, M.C. Perry elementary school student. "My favorite part was when the cats were singing and they went 'rah!'"

After all the songs and plays, the performers presented the students and staff of M.C. Perry elementary school with paper cranes to symbolize the bond of friendship between Shunan city and the M.C. Perry schools.

Students at the M.C. Perry elementary school then presented the performers with gifts to demonstrate their gratitude for the show.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Juri Tanabe, 8, a member of the Shunan International Children's Club, Children Dance Division, performs a Japanese dance in the gymnasium at the Mathew C. Perry Elementary School here Nov. 23. The Japanese performers came to visit as a way of saying thank you for the support the school gave during operation Tomodachi.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

The Shunan Children's Choir performs the musical, "Puss in Boots," in the gymnasium at the Mathew C. Perry Elementary School here Nov. 23. This is the second year Shunan city has performed at M.C. Perry Elementary School. The performance started with the Shinnanyo High School Brass Band playing "The Star Spangled Banner." After all the songs and plays, the performers presented the students and staff of M.C. Perry Elementary school with a paper crane to symbolize the bond of friendship between Shunan city and the M.C. Perry schools. Students at the M.C. Perry school then presented the performers with gifts to demonstrate their gratitude for the show.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Kirara Yeda, 9, a member of the Shunan International Children's Club, Children Dance Division, performs a Japanese dance in the gymnasium at the Mathew C. Perry Elementary School here Nov. 23. The Japanese performers came to visit as a way of saying thank you for the support the school gave during Operation Tomodachi. The festival had performers from the Shunan International Children's Club, the Shunan Children's Choir and the Yamaguchi Prefectural Shinnanyo High School Brass Band visit M.C. Perry Elementary to continue the ongoing friendship of the station and Shunan city.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

The Shunan Children's Choir performs the musical "Puss in Boots" in the gymnasium at the Mathew C. Perry Elementary School here Nov. 23. The musical had three songs as well as a song by the choir and their teacher afterwards. The performance started with the Shinnanyo High School Brass Band playing the United States "The Star Spangled Banner". After all the songs and plays, the performers presented the students and staff of M.C. Perry Elementary school with a paper crane to symbolize the bond of friendship between Shunan city and the M.C. Perry schools.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

A student in the Yamaguchi Prefectural Shinnanyo High School Brass band performs The Star Spangled Banner in the gymnasium at the Mathew C. Perry Elementary school here Nov. 23. The day started with the performers visiting the 6th graders of M.C. Perry elementary in their classrooms. The performers then went to recess with the students and ate lunch in the school cafeteria. The students of M.C. Perry elementary benefit from these events by gaining a sense of understanding of the Japanese culture that surrounds them every day. After all the songs and plays, the performers presented the students and staff of M.C. Perry elementary with paper cranes to symbolize the bond of friendship between Shunan city and the M.C. Perry schools. Students from M.C. Perry elementary then presented the performers with gifts to convey their gratitude for the show.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marine engineers, Afghans improve critical intersection in Marjah

LANCE CPL. ALFRED V. LOPEZ
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

MARJAH DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Combat engineers with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, and local workers improved road conditions by repairing a key bridge here, Nov. 12.

The bridge, which needed critical foundation repairs, is vital for both local travel and military missions on a major intersection between Marjah and Nawa.

“Today’s project involves a bridge which has wing-walls that are eroding,” said 1st Lt. Steven Thomas, a platoon commander with Alpha Co., CLB-1 and a 25-year-old native of Lancaster, Calif. “Our goal is to replace those wing-walls to make them last longer and make the bridge more stable for the civilian and military traffic.”

Wing-walls provide the bridge with structure to the heavy support foot and vehicle traffic passing through the intersection.

“The water flowing through here also provides water for the farmers, and this bridge is vital to the locals traveling to the bazaar,” added Thomas.

“By improving this intersection, the travel conditions will improve for the locals, as well as our convoys that come through,” said Cpl. Logan Homstad, a fire team leader with Alpha Co., CLB-1 and a 26-year-old native of Drake, N.D.

The combat engineers managed to control local civilian traffic while completing their work, leaving local commerce unaffected.

“The biggest challenge is that it’s right next to a bazaar,” said Homstad. “There’s a lot of traffic moving around the area.”

“We have to keep the locals out of the way because there’s a lot of heavy equipment moving around,” explained Thomas. “We don’t want any of them to get hurt, as well as impeding our progress.”

Some of the locals even lent a helping hand to the Marine engineers, as they clearly understood repairs to the bridge would be beneficial to the local community, Thomas added.

The mission was easier because of the support and manpower of the locals, said Cpl. Travis Dye, a 22-year-old combat engineer and native of Jacksonville, Fla.

The Alpha Co. Marines worked expediently, digging out the existing structure with heavy equipment, and emplacing the new wing-walls that will keep the bridge supported in the years to come.

“My Marines were outstanding ... They had to wade into the water, sometimes getting waist deep into the mud,” explained Thomas. “Some even had to get pulled out with the help of a few Marines, because the mud was so thick.”

The bridge is one of Alpha Co.’s many projects supporting infrastructure development here in southern Helmand.

“We’re happy to be here,” said Homstad. “We’re happy to do projects that matter.”



LANCE CPL. ALFRED V. LOPEZ

U.S. Marine Cpl. Samuel Escutia Jr., a combat engineer with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1 and 21-year-old native of Reedley, Calif., cuts through a wing-wall here, Nov. 12. Marines of Alpha Co. are currently repairing the support structure on a bridge located at a major intersection that connects Marjah and Nawa districts. The bridge receives heavy foot and vehicle traffic due to the local bazaar, as well as Afghan and coalition military convoys.



LANCE CPL. ALFRED V. LOPEZ

U.S. Marine Cpl. Samuel Escutia Jr., a combat engineer with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1 and 21-year-old native of Reedley, Calif., empties water from a culvert here, Nov. 12. Marines of Alpha Co. are currently repairing the support structure on a bridge located at a major intersection that connects Marjah and Nawa districts. The bridge receives heavy foot and vehicle traffic due to the local bazaar, as well as Afghan and coalition military convoys.



LANCE CPL. ALFRED V. LOPEZ

U.S. Marine Cpl. Eric McMullen, a combat engineer with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1 and 21-year-old native of Lake Tahoe, Calif., checks the progress of a project here, Nov. 12. Marines of Alpha Co. are currently repairing the support structure on a bridge located at a major intersection that connects Marjah and Nawa districts. The bridge receives heavy foot and vehicle traffic due to the local bazaar, as well as Afghan and coalition military convoys.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Toys for Tots Collection
Toys for Tots will be in front of the exchange Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 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.

Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally
Join the Single Marine Program for the Annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally at the Hornet’s Nest Sunday 12 - 6 p.m. There will be food, games, music, a static display of heavy equipment provided by Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and a motorcycle contest. Toys for children of all ages will be collected for the Toys for Tots Foundation. For more information call 253-3585.

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 from 4 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday. After the clinic, the Marlins players are slated to play in an adult softball game. If anyone is interested in signing up for the game, please call MCCC Productions at 253-3727. This is a free event and open to everyone!

Original Harlem Globetrotters
The original Harlem Globetrotters are scheduled to visit the station Saturday. 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.

Miles for Smiles
Iwakuni Roadrunners is scheduled to host a Toys for Tots Miles for Smiles five kilometer fundraiser run open to all base residents on the seawall behind IronWorks Gym 10 a.m. Dec. 10. Entry fee is one new toy. Miles for Smiles is a charity fun run/walk organized by Zack Lewis from the Boy Scouts of America in order to complete his Eagle Scout Service Project. All toy donations will be given to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Your support will bring joy to those less fortunate.

KFC Holiday Meal
KFC is offering 12-14 pound deep-fried turkeys

this holiday season. Orders may be placed five days prior to the pick-up date from now until Dec. 26. To order a turkey only the price is \$60. The price for a holiday meal, which also includes four large sides and eight biscuits is \$75. To order, call 253-4915

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.

PMO Lost and Found
Contact the Provost Marshal’s Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the station. Examples may include cell phones, keys, digital cameras, bicycles, helmets, etc.

Iwakuni Roadrunners
All service members and civilians are welcome. Runs are Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Meeting place is in front of Crossroads Mall. Time and length of runs vary. All abilities are welcome. For

more information visit “Iwakuni Roadrunners” Facebook page.

Wrestling Club
Lt. Col Fredrick and Maj. Reed of Marine Aircraft Group 12 are hosting a wrestling club Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1130 at the IronWorks Gym, near the basketball courts. It is open to anyone who may be interested in practicing or getting a good workout.

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.

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.

Postal Holiday Hours

DECEMBER

Dec. 24: Northside - Closed
Southside - Finance 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
PSC 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 26: Closed
Dec. 27: Northside- Closed
Southside- Finance 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
PSC 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dec. 31: Normal business hours/Finance & PSC 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Northside - Closed

JANUARY

Jan. 1: Closed
Jan. 2: Closed
Jan. 3: Northside - Closed
Southside - Finance 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
PSC 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Emergency Phone Numbers

- Antiterrorism Force Protection: 253-ATFP (2837)
- Life, limb or loss-of-vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.
- For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal’s Office: 253-3303.
- To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333
- Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harrassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3556.

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



Matthew C. Perry High School drum ensemble plays holiday music during the 10th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony here Saturday. The performers brought out the holiday spirit as they played. 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, December 2, 2011
7 p.m. Real Steel (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. Killer Elite (R)
Saturday, December 3, 2011
4 p.m. Puss in Boots (PG)
7 p.m. Tower Heist (PG-13)
Sunday, December 4, 2011
4 p.m. Puss in Boots (PG)
7 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part One (PG-13)
Premiere
Monday, December 5, 2011
7 p.m. Real Steel (PG-13)
Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Theater Closed
Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Theater Closed
Thursday, December 8, 2011
7 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part One (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, 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, 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 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.

Race makes room for Thanksgiving Day feast

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

Service members and station residents took part in the 2011 Iwakuni Roadrunners four-mile Turkey Trot run in front of the IronWorks Gym here Nov. 24. This was the first official race for the organization.

The purpose of the run was to provide station residents an opportunity to share in the holiday spirit, engage in a group exercise, and make room for the Thanksgiving Day food that awaited them.

"The running club is great," said Staff Sgt. Paul S. Mancuso, Iwakuni Roadrunners co-founder and president. "We get out every week and train. It's good to have a race and get everyone together and have a good time."

Another function of the race was to fundraise for the club.

This is how money is raised for the club, said Mancuso. Future goals are to buy a timing system and plan trips, he added.

Approximately 50 runners participated in the run, which was divided into a one-mile run for children and four miles for adults. The number of runners who showed up for the event was a welcome sight, and showed just how much impact the club can have, said Mancuso.

"I'm extremely happy by the turnout," said Mancuso. "When we planned this it was originally for the club, but a lot of other people came out to run, so it was outstanding."

Medals were awarded to everyone who finished the race. Those who finished first overall in the female and male categories were awarded a whole turkey. Division winners were awarded a turkey leg.

Though turkey stuffing and dressing are synonymous with Thanksgiving, being thankful, appreciative and recognizing all the important aspects of one's life, no matter how small or big, such as family, are the true reason for Thanksgiving. It is a day supposedly set aside in recognition of these sentiments, to focus on self reflection and steeped in tradition. The Roadrunners hope to add to tradition for its members and station residents by continuing the run on base even after founding members leave to go elsewhere.

"That's one reason why we did it," said Haley Singler, Iwakuni Roadrunners co-founder and treasurer. "There are a lot of things going on with families and food, but this is a great way to add something to that tradition and keep going in the years to come here in Iwakuni and wherever else they go."

The Roadrunners hope to not have this one event be a flash-in-the-pan, but recur on a monthly basis.

"We hope to do one race a month with a theme," said Singler. "That's our goal."

Though the run was meant to be for fun and getting involved with the community, many of the participants had prior experience in running.

"This is my second race and I also did a triathlon with a group before this," said Edmond Chapa, race participant and overall male winner.

Chapa said, though he finished first, the desire to compete against others and be around likeminded individuals was more important.

"I just came out to support the club," said Chapa. "Some of my friends were running it and I enjoy being around this type of environment."

The next race is slated for February and will focus on couples running 10 kilometers together. The participants do not have to be married or in a relationship to run together. Each will run five kilometers and their run times will be combined for an overall total as they compete for prizes.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Dominic F. Kimzey, (right), and others take off at the starting point in front of the IronWorks Gym here during the 2011 Iwakuni Roadrunners four-mile Turkey Trot Nov. 24. The purpose of the run was to allow station residents an opportunity to spend time with like-minded individuals and maintain fitness over the Thanksgiving holiday. Though the run was meant to be for fun and getting involved with the community, many of the participants had prior experience in running. The Roadrunners hope to create a tradition for its members and station residents by continuing the run on base even after founding members leave to go elsewhere. Approximately 50 runners participated in the run, which was divided into a one-mile run for children and four miles for adults.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Station resident children sprint down the street in front of the IronWorks Gym here during the 2011 Iwakuni Roadrunners four Mile Turkey Trot Nov. 24. Children were placed into their own category and were required to run only a mile to claim a medal. The next race is slated for February and will focus on couples running ten kilometers together. The participants do not have to be married or in a relationship to run together. Each will run five kilometers and their run times will be combined for an overall total as they compete for prizes.



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

