

TRAIN TO KILL

JMSDF completes practice training to defend Japan if necessary | P. 5

ORPHANS

Orphans visit, sing, do activities to celebrate holidays | P. 6 & 7

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 46 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

VMFA-115 mails large order of dummy-bombs to island in Pacific

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam - Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 launched eight F/A-18 Hornets carrying thousands of pounds worth of practice ordnance as part of Exercise Wolmi-do Fury here Dec. 2.

Exercise Wolmi-do Fury is a series of different scenarios, which allow pilots a chance to practice multiple employment tactics and allow Marines and sailors to familiarize themselves with and become more proficient in their respective jobs.

Pilots practiced their punctuality by readying all aircraft at once so they could be launched successively one after another.

VMFA-115, also known as the



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam - Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 F-18 Hornets taxi out to the flight line and group together so they can launch all at once during Exercise Wolmi-do Fury here Dec. 2.

SEE **EAGLES** ON PAGE 3



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Stretch, Harlem Globetrotter, does the YMCA dance with a crowd of young Iwakuni residents during the halftime break of the Harlem Globetrotters versus Global Select world championship game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday.

Globetrotters amaze crowd with high flying performance

CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters competed for the basketball world championship against their rival team, Global Select, in a heated exhibition at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday.

"This is our eleventh annual holiday military tour, so it feels great to come out here and perform for our troops because they are superheroes," said Kenny (Blenda) Rodriguez, Harlem Globetrotter. "To us, it's really no difference. We can play for one person or two people; it doesn't really matter. At the end of the day, it's all about making millions of smiles."

Since 1926, the Globetrotters have been entertaining crowds around the world, recruiting the most elite basketball players

and handlers worldwide.

The Globetrotters are slated to perform for service members throughout the Pacific region.

"For us to do these things as far as coming to play as Harlem Globetrotters and perform for the troops, it's a great feeling," said Anthony (Buckets) Blake, Harlem Globetrotter. "We get an opportunity to give back to them because they've gave so much for us in order for us to have the freedoms to even play, not only in the United States, but all over the world."

Basketball fans, big and small, filled the sports courts to witness the Globetrotter's flashy, entertaining basketball skills.

The Globetrotters played Global Select for four quarters of high-flying, slam-dunking action. The lead fluctuated between teams

SEE **EXHIBITION** ON PAGE 3



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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Virgin shall conceive and bear a son'

CMDR. DEAN L. HOELZ
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

As a child, I never liked being alone, especially in the dark; it was dreadful! In order for me to go to sleep, my mom would leave the door to my room open and would turn on the small red night-light that sat on the nightstand next to my bed. For me, the gentle red, glowing light kept the darkness at bay. Its soft glow seemed to shatter the darkness just enough. It calmed my fear of the dark as well as my fear of being alone. With its shining presence, falling asleep became easier. Looking

back, I am amazed how one little light could make such a difference to a small child who was scared of the dark, but as long as the light was there, ever so faintly illuminating the darkness, I was OK. No matter how big the darkness seemed to be, just one little light kept it at bay.

For many Christians, the Season of Advent, the four weeks prior to Christmas, begins the last Sunday in November. It begins as the days grow shorter and the nights longer. In the Christian tradition, it is a time of "anticipation" and "preparation" for the coming of Jesus Christ, "the light

of the world," into a sin-darkened world. This living light shatters the darkness of our world giving us comfort and hope. His presence shatters the darkness of despair, chaos, uncertainty and fear. For the people of God, this light is Emmanuel, "God with us."

As Advent begins, it is my prayer that God's love may richly dwell with each of you and your families. It is my hope that the shining light of his presence will continue to grow just as the Advent candles grow brighter each week leading up to the Christmas Celebration. May his presence renew, strengthen and lead you as this year draws to a close and a new one soon begins. May the great Emmanuel be with you all during this most holy time.

God's peace be with you all.

DPRI works to provide new digs for Marines

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Defense Policy Review Initiative Integrated Program Management Office is slated to begin demolition of Building 1395, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242's former sleeping quarters. The demolition is part of a series of construction projects, which started Nov. 12 on the station's north side and is slated to continue over the next several months.

"DPRI is rearranging the facilities to make room for relocations associated with DPRI, shifting around the Marine Corps' structures," said Myke Payne, DPRI IPMO interdisciplinary engineer.

Some of these shifts, which are still slated to take place, will come with the scheduled transformation of the station within the coming years. The creation of a commercial airport right outside the northern perimeter of the station within the year, will impact the surrounding areas.

The construction of Iwakuni Kintaiyko Airport will alleviate some hassles caused to Iwakuni and station residents. These residents must currently travel to Hiroshima and Fukuoka for flights. With the new airport residents will cut down on travel time and prices.

The proximity of the airport's construction and placement to the station necessitated the need for the barracks to accommodate the airport space and reduce the traffic near the area.

"The traffic pattern near those (barracks) will be shifting," said Payne. "It's made things a little tricky."

The planning and realization of the station's revamp was not something which sprang up over night, but took meticulous planning on the part of DPRI.

"This program has been in the works for years, as early as 2006 on some of the planning stages for this," said Payne.

The reduced traffic is also in place to ensure other various construction projects will not be hindered.

The reduced traffic flow and limited space associated with the construction was originally seen as being a hindrance for Marines on the station's north side.

"There's more of a hassle because we can't use some of the roads near the chow hall anymore, but most people over here walk anyway," said Cpl. Chad R. Armstrong, VMFA(AW)-242 aviation ordnanceman. "With the old barracks gone, we really don't need those roads anymore."

The new barracks, building 1438A and 1430F, are a welcome sight for Marines who lived in the older barracks, as the rooms have been upgraded with a kitchen and separate sleeping areas.

"I like these barracks better than the old ones," said Armstrong. "We moved from a barracks into an apartment. After working 16, 17 hour days, we get to go home and actually call it home and not just a wall closet with a rack."

This perception of the barracks as a home away from home also has the impact of boosting the overall feel of the station.

"It's definitely beneficial for troop morale," said Lance Cpl. Vincent F. Esser, a VMFA(AW)-242 aviation ordnanceman. "Before, we lived in barracks that have been here for a long time, but now it's nice to go to barracks that are easier to keep clean."

The new layout of the rooms allows Marines to regain a sense of privacy and acquire more sleep for the next work day.

"We have separate rooms now," said Esser. "Before, if we had a roommate who was on nights and we were on days, we'd wake each other up whenever one of us was going to work. Now these rooms give us a little bit more privacy and definitely benefits morale."

A total of ten barracks, along with parking structures for residents and a new enlisted club, are slated to be built. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 is also scheduled to live in building 1430F. It has not been determined what squadrons will occupy the other eight barracks.

FROM EAGLE ON PAGE 1

Silver Eagles, is part of the Unit Deployment Program. The UDP allows squadrons a chance to train in the Pacific theater and perform a wide range of scenarios over approximately a six-month period.

"By launching all the aircraft so quickly it allows us to tactically employ a large number of jets," said Capt. Richard A. Behrmann, VMFA-115 pilot training officer.

The consecutive launching of the F/A-18s allows pilots more time to get into formation. It also allows the section/division leader a larger window to safely employ his forces. Launching jets closer together allows for better communication and lets the leader have more time to plan.

"The training went very smoothly, and it was a great plan from the beginning," said Behrmann.

Not all of the planes were launched back-to-back. Two jets took off minutes before the others.

"The first two jets were launched a few minutes before all of the others in order to provide an initial overview of the complex," said Behrmann.

By launching a majority of the planes all at once it puts pressure on the maintenance, ordnance, and other Marines involved in launching the F/A-18s.

"We are looking to stress the squadron a little bit," said Lt. Col. Matthew H. Phares, VMFA-115 commanding officer. "So we're going to bump up the number of personnel and the level of training so that it is going to be more tactical."

The mission is to try and push the squadron to its limit so they can identify its weak points and become a more reliable and faster force.

"We will be working harder and longer so we can push beyond the limits of how much firepower we can put out in a combat environment at any given time, if we are called upon to do so," said Phares.

Training like this is uncommon for VMFA-115 due to training ranges the squadron is offered.

"We have a great range this year," said Phares. "We have the opportunity to drop live ordnance. We have big ranges where we can practice air-to-air training, and we can put together a large force here in Guam. That is what makes this location so important to our training."

The training exercise went off without a hitch as it allowed pilots to conduct air-to-air maneuvers around the air-to-ground target island. It also allowed for a smooth transition between maneuvering and targeting, which isn't possible at many other training ranges.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam - Marines finish making adjustments to the fuel of an F/A-18 Hornet while it is getting ready to fly during Operation Wolmi-do Fury here Monday. The jets need to go through a long checklist in order to make sure they are ready to fly, and one of the most important things on the list is their fuel levels.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Ant, Harlem Globetrotter, watches as his teammate, Flip, goes for a high-flying slam-dunk during the Original Harlem Globetrotters versus Global Select world championship game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday. The Globetrotters visited Iwakuni as part of their 11th annual holiday military tour.

FROM EXHIBITION ON PAGE 1

throughout the exhibition while the Globetrotters surprised the crowd with comedic penalties and non-stop, off-the-wall routines.

"I've never seen anything like this. I've heard about them but never had the opportunity to actually see them in person," said David Skinner, event attendee. "It's amazing, the fact that they took part of their time and came out of their way to play here for the Marine Corps and Navy."

The event not only gave service members a chance to enjoy a U.S. classic performance, but also brought a piece of America to the service members away from their families for the holidays.

"Hopefully we've given them a piece of home, piece of the American pie in case they're missing home," said Blake. "Troops have a lot on their minds, and the Globetrotters come for two hours and get a chance to take something off their minds and just keep them laughing the whole time."

Fans expressed their gratitude at the end of the performance while they waited around the court to meet and greet their favorite Globetrotter players.

"I thought it was a lot of fun. It was a good atmosphere and very interesting," said Samuel Hess, 15, event attendee. "It's really nice for them to come out, and everyone had a blast. It exceeded my expectations."

The Globetrotters departed en route to their next destination to spread holiday cheer throughout the Pacific region, leaving a holiday message for their fans:

"Believe in your dreams, because you can achieve anything you want. If you just stay positive, stay away from all the negativity and just believe in yourself, great things will happen for you," said Blenda.

Thunderous goodwill rolls through station



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Japanese and American motorcyclists ride around the station during the 14th annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally at the Strike Zone parking lot here Sunday. The Japanese and American motorcycle enthusiasts showed their support for the Toys for Tots campaign by donating toys at the rally. The toys are slated to be given out during future community relations projects in various countries. This event provided an opportunity for Japanese and American motorcyclists to spend time with each other while helping those less fortunate. Many Japanese riders placed a toy or two in the donation box when they first arrived at the event.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Matuoka Masayasu, a rally participant, laughs as Sgt. Daniel L. Burges, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, puts the helmet to an EOD bomb suit on Masayasu's head during the 14th annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally at the Strike Zone parking lot here Sunday. Station motor transportation and EOD Marines provided static displays and interactive demonstrations of equipment for participants to observe and play with. The event also gave station Marines and residents a chance to show the Japanese riders the military equipment they use.

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The station Single Marine Program and Iwakuni Motorcycle Club hosted the 14th annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally at the Strike Zone parking lot here Sunday.

The rally is part of the Toys for Tots campaign, which gathers toys for underprivileged children 2 - 18 years old.

The toys are slated to be given out during future community relations projects in various countries Marines train in.

More than 100 Japanese and American motorcyclists attended the rally.

This event provided an opportunity for Japanese and American motorcycle riders to spend time with each other while helping less fortunate children.

"This allows the Japanese to donate toys for underprivileged children," said Shaun Ally, SMP coordinator. "This rally is an added bonus, because it brings the local community here to help us with a noble cause while having fun showing off their bikes as well."

Many Japanese riders placed a toy or two in the donation box when they first arrived at the event.

Bringing a toy was not a requirement for the rally, but the Japanese riders were encouraged to bring toys for donation.

"This is an opportunity for Japanese and Americans to get together for a

common goal of goodwill to help out the less fortunate children here and around the world," said Maj. Edward M. Bahret, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 executive officer. "The Japanese like the spirit of giving. We use our common interest in riding our motorcycles to attract them to support our goal of donating more toys to help out the less fortunate in a fun way."

The event also gave station Marines a chance to show the Japanese riders the military equipment they use to help protect the station and surrounding areas of Japan.

Station motor transportation and explosive ordnance disposal Marines provided static displays and interactive demonstrations of equipment for participants to observe and interact with.

After the riders lapped the station, they were treated to food, live music and friendly competition set up by the SMP.

Marine volunteers played tug-of-war and wrestled in sumo wrestler suits with some of the Japanese participants.

"I had a wonderful time today," said Suehiro Kazuaki, a local motorcyclist who dressed as Santa Claus for the rally. "It is my greatest wish to have more activities like this in the future."

Residents are still able to donate to Toys for Tots. Marines are posted in front of the Marine Corps Exchange to receive donations weekdays 6 - 8 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

All donated items must be unwrapped toys or articles of clothing.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Suehiro Kazuaki, a local motorcyclist who dressed as Santa Claus for the rally, leads the Japanese motorcyclist team during a friendly tug-of-war game with Marines during the 14th annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally at the Strike Zone parking lot here Sunday. Nine uniformed Marine volunteers played tug-of-war and wrestled in sumo wrestler suits with some of the Japanese participants.

JMSDF sailors re-qualify with rifles to defend Japan

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Approximately 60 Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Fleet Air Wing 31 sailors performed re-qualification and familiarization training with the Howa Type 64 semi-automatic rifles at the Indoor Small Arms Range here Nov. 28 to Dec. 3.

Maintaining a qualification and staying familiar with the Howas is essential for JMSDF sailors in order to protect Japan if necessary.

JMSDF Sailors are required to re-qualify every three months.

Re-qualifying at the ISAR saves training and travel time for sailors.

"This is our job as sailors of Japan," said Chief Petty Officer Akitoshi Harada, JMSDF FAW-31 Iwakuni Air Support Squadron chief petty officer. "We have to be prepared to defend our country no matter what."

If a scenario arose where JMSDF sailors had to return enemy fire, this training would ensure the sailors could accurately put rounds down range and on target.

Helping the JMSDF sailors hone their sharpshooter skills for the protection of Japan meshed perfectly with the ISAR Marines' train of thought.

"Marines are here in order to help protect Japan from its enemies," said Staff Sgt. Greg L. Guthrie, ISAR staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "They are a great bunch

of men and women to work and serve with. With both Marines and JMSDF sailors watching out for Japan, the Japanese citizens can rest easy every night."

The sailors shot in groups of six. Each shooter had an assistant while a Marine range coach oversaw the action on the line.

The shooters seemed to enjoy working with the ISAR Marines, but had mixed feelings about operating the rifles.

"I would only use this weapon in defense of my country," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Suzuki Tsuyoshi, a JMSDF FAW-31 air crewman. "I would prefer to solve a situation without violence, but if the need to use these rifles ever occurred, I would not hesitate to fire."

JMSDF sailors and security forces have previously used the ISAR infrequently, but plan to use the facility more frequently for future training.

The JMSDF is the naval defense force for Japan and has approximately 46,000 sailors and personnel, 110 ships and 300 aircraft.

The Howa Type 64 semi-automatic rifle, a weapon unique to Japanese Self-Defense Force and Japanese Coast Guard, came into service in 1964 and fires a North Atlantic Treaty Organization 7.62 51mm round.

The Type 64 was superseded by the modern Howa Type 89 semi-automatic rifle in 1990, but is still in use with all JSDF branches and JCG.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

A Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force sailor snaps into the prone position and aims down range as another JMSDF sailor holds a red flag in the air during rifle re-qualification and familiarization training at the Indoor Small Arms Range here Dec. 2. Red flags were used to notify the range coach who still had live rounds. Maintaining a qualification and staying familiar with the Howas is essential for JMSDF sailors in order to protect Japan if necessary. If a scenario arose where JMSDF sailors had to return enemy fire, this training would ensure the sailors could accurately put rounds down range and on target.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Seaman Shusaku Okamura, a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Fleet Air Wing 31 air crewman, snaps into the prone position and aims down range during rifle re-qualification and familiarization training at the Indoor Small Arms Range here Dec. 2. The sailors are required to re-qualify every three months.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Petty Officer 1st Class Hiroshi Nagashima, a Fleet Air Wing 31 air crewman, posts a fresh target for the next shooter during rifle re-qualification and familiarization training at the Indoor Small Arms Range here Dec. 2. The sailors shot in groups of six at a time.

Orphaned children spend day at Branch Health Clinic



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR. A Japanese child from the Akibono Orphanage on Oshima Island picks out materials to make Christmas tree decorations at the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic here Saturday. Service members from the Branch Health Clinic and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force spent the day providing the children an opportunity to experience the joyous holiday spirit of Christmas.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR. A Japanese volunteer helps a small child from the Akibono Orphanage lead fellow children in singing their school song during an on-base visit to the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic here Saturday. The purpose was to allow the children to join in the camaraderie of American and Japanese service members spreading holiday cheer.

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic corpsmen and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force service members spent time with Akibono Foster Home orphanage children from Oshima Island at the Branch Health Clinic here Saturday.

The purpose of the visit was for the children to see the camaraderie Japan and the U.S. have with one another.

Madelyn I. Santiago, Education and Developmental Intervention Services office administrator, said making the holidays accessible to children and showing the true purpose of the holidays was important for them, so they could see the less advertised aspect of Christmas.

"The holiday season is about giving and sharing, not only about shopping," said Santiago. "There are a lot of things to do here that can make a difference. This is something we take wholeheartedly."

All 28 children were given a scarf at the start of the event to get them into the holiday spirit of gift giving. BHC service members spent several weeks knitting and crocheting the scarves. For some, this was their first attempt at performing such an activity.

The children then made ornaments and decorations for the Christmas tree and also decorated cookies. Once finished with decorations, the children and personnel sang Christmas carols. Santa Claus closed out the event by taking time to visit and interact with the children.

The BHC and EDIS staff and personnel have orchestrated this long-standing tradition of inviting orphanages here for more than 20 years.

American service members have not been alone in providing this opportunity to the children.

The chance to interact with not just American military but Japanese service members as well was something the children will think back on fondly, said Leading Seaman Tsuyoshi Miyauchi, JMSDF crash fire rescue fire fighter.

"It's not so easy for the JMSDF to do such events, but when we get together with the American service members, it becomes easier for such events," said Miyauchi. "I hope we are able to do such events like this. I want everyone to know about these types of events."

Miyauchi also said whether interacting with American service members or JMSDF, this is a good experience for the children and something they can enjoy from time to time.

Holidays can have a somber effect on those less fortunate, from service members who are thousands of miles from home to little ones with no true home of their own to go to. It is in these times when the need to smile and be thankful is strongest.

"During the holiday season, it's important to be positive about everything in your life and also that sense of camaraderie," said Kendal C. Johnson, Medical Association Recreational Committee president. "One of the best things you can see is a smile on a child's face, especially during the holidays."

The event also focused on helping children to become more accustomed to seeing and interacting with American and JMSDF service members.

"When they see American service members, they won't be so (nervous)," said Johnson.

This is one of two events NHC and EDIS put together for the children throughout the year. Organizers hope these visits will continue to provide opportunities and that they will occur more frequently during the following year.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR. Akibono Orphanage children sing the orphanage's school song to show their appreciation during an on-base visit at the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic here Saturday. The children spent the day making Christmas tree decorations, decorating cookies and singing classic Christmas songs. At the end of the event, Santa Claus came to visit the children.

Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel hand out materials to children from the Akibono Orphanage to make Christmas tree decorations at the Branch Health Clinic here Saturday. The children came from Oshima Island to take part in the all-day cultural exchange.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Akibono Orphanage children decorate cookies in Christmas decorations during an on-base visit to the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic here Saturday. Branch Health Clinic spent four weeks knitting and crocheting scarves in preparation for the children's arrival so they could see first hand an example of the holiday spirit associated with Christmas.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marine watches birth of first child on deployment day two

CPL. KATHERINE M. SOLANO
2ND MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Sgt. Bunnarath Gnoy, Alpha Company heavy equipment chief, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), knows what it is like to be away from family for long periods of time. He is currently on his fourth deployment. He and his wife of two years have perfected the art of long distance communication.

But now, Gnoy has to learn how to parent from thousands of miles away. His first child, a son named Aiden, was born while Gnoy was in Afghanistan.

It was day two of his unit's time in Afghanistan. The phone call came that his wife was going into early labor.

"She was supposed to be due on the 24th so I didn't expect it at all," said Gnoy. "I called the hospital and told them I was in Afghanistan and they got me right on the phone with her. I asked her to ask the doctors if she could use [wireless internet] in there. They said yes, so I was on the webcam, just watching. I got to see the whole thing."

Nine hours and a few dropped internet calls later, Gnoy was able to

maintain a steady connection and witnessed, as firsthand as possible, the birth of his son.

"When I saw the head, I thought, 'I don't know what I'm going to do.' Then the baby came out, and I saw him before my wife did," Gnoy said, the hint of doubt erased from his face as he recounted meeting his son. "The doctor kept re-angling the computer. So he came out and the doctor showed me and said, 'Here is your son'."

Gnoy described how he knew his life had changed then. He said that all the pride he felt in the Marine Corps couldn't compare to being a father.

Two months into his deployment, Gnoy maintains a positive attitude, despite missing the birth of his child by a few days and a few thousand miles. He looks out for his Marines and continues to learn about his job, but is always counting the weeks until he is reunited with his family.

"He will be seven months when I get home," Gnoy said. "I think that's when the baby starts to sleep through the night, so I'm going to miss all the bad stuff. I told my wife, 'when I get home, you can take seven months off if you want.'"



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Sgt. Bunnarath Gnoy, Alpha Company heavy equipment chief, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), stands among his unit's construction vehicles after a day spent on a worksite in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 23. Gnoy proudly carries a placard with his newborn son's name attached to his rifle every day.



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A name placard is attached to a Marine's rifle during his deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, in honor of his first child, who was born on the second day of his unit's deployment. Sgt. Bunnarath Gnoy, Alpha Company heavy equipment chief, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), was able to watch the birth on a webcam aboard Camp Leatherneck in early October. Two months into his deployment, Gnoy maintains a positive attitude, despite missing the birth of his child by a few days and a few thousand miles. He looks out for his Marines and continues to learn about his job, but is always counting the weeks until he is reunited with his family.

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.

KFC Holiday Meal
KFC is offering 12-14 pound deep-fried turkeys this holiday season. Orders may be placed five days prior to pick-up date from now until Dec. 26. The price for one turkey order 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.

Christmas Feast

There is a Christmas Feast scheduled for Christmas Day at the Northside Mess Hall from 3 - 5 p.m. Meal includes French onion soup, prime rib, honey glazed cornish hen, salmon with orange sauce, sour cream mashed potatoes, tortellini with alfredo sauce, glazed carrots, succotash, brown gravy and cheese cake with strawberry. Special meal prices: Everyone aboard the station is welcome. ComRats, civilian employees and family members \$7. Family members of E-4 and below \$5.95.

Education Fair

The Lifelong Learning Department is scheduled to host two Education Fairs for station residents Jan. 5 and March 7 from 12 - 2 p.m. in Building 411. These events will serve as a great informational forum for students interested in starting, continuing and advancing their education. Light refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given away. For more information contact the Education Office at 253-3855.

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.

Now On Flickr

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

Crime Stoppers

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

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS offers fun support and encouragement for mothers of children ages 0-5. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. Volunteers are also needed to help with our children's program. For more information call Sarah Spencer at 253-2303 or visit www.facebook.com/IwakuniMOPS.

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.

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.

Vehicle

1994 Mitsubishi Delica
JCI expires Sep. 2012. Diesel operated, 8 passenger, black/silver color. Runs great, is great on gas. \$2,200 OBO. For more information call Sgt. Omar Mckinnon at 080-4060-6548.

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.

Miles for smiles

Zack Lewis 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 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.

Angel Tree Gift Exchange

Spread your holiday spirit by sponsoring a local orphan.

Each angel on the Marine Corps Exchange Angel Tree represents a child from the local Yahata Children's Home.

Purchase a gift for your 'angel' between now and Monday and place it under the MCX Angel Tree before Dec. 17th.

A joyful gift exchange between you, Santa Claus and the children of Yahata Children's Home will occur in the MCX Atrium. Be sure to take a picture with Santa.

Refreshments will be provided by MCX.

Gift exchange will take place at the MCX Dec. 17 at 9:30 a.m.

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



Two Harlem Globetrotters pretend to douse a group of fans with a bucket of water during the Original Harlem Globetrotters versus Global Select world championship game at the IronWorks Sports Courts here Saturday. 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 09, 2011
 7 p.m. Tower Heist (PG-13)
 10 p.m. The Ides of March (R)
Premiere

Saturday, December 10, 2011
 4 p.m. Happy Feet Two (PG)
Premiere
 7 p.m. Real Steel (PG-13)

Sunday, December 11, 2011
 4 p.m. Happy Feet Two (PG)
 7 p.m. 50/50 (R)
Premiere

Monday, December 12, 2011
 7 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part One (PG-13)

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
 Theater Closed

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
 Theater Closed

Thursday, December 15, 2011
 7 p.m. 50/50 (R)

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

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

Mess Hall Menu

Monday: Cream of broccoli soup, turkey pot pie, chicken vega, Cajun baked fish, steamed rice, mashed sweet potatoes, cauliflower combo, collard greens, vegetable gravy, apple dressing, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, banana nut muffin, quick apple coffee cake, quick apple coffee cake, apple crunch, marble cake with chocolate frosting, macadamia cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tuesday: Chicken gumbo soup, shrimp scampi, barbecue pork ribs, sweet and sour chicken, peas with onions, wax beans, steamed rice, oven browned potatoes, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, banana nut muffin, quick apple coffee cake, blueberry pie, devil's food cake with chocolate frosting, peanut butter pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday: Tomato soup, lasagna, roast pork, fried breaded shrimp, au gratin potatoes, steamed rice, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, garlic bread, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, pecan rolls, cherry crunch with chocolate frosting, sugar cookies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday: Minestrone soup, barbecued ribs, chicken on orange sauce, steak and vegetables, steamed rice, pork fried rice, vegetable stir fry cabbage, peas and carrots, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, blueberry muffins, apple pie, spice cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Friday: Cream of mushroom soup, baked tuna and noodles, salisbury steak, fried catfish, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, brussel sprouts, cream styled corn, brown gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, quick French coffee cake, Boston cream pie, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting, oatmeal raisin cookies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Rubber meets road, 2011 Heat the Streets Duathlon

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents and Iwakuni city locals competed together in the 2011 "Heat the Streets" Duathlon here Sunday.

The Duathlon is an annual event sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni to strengthen bonds between station residents and Japanese locals.

"(The race) builds a sense of community amongst the athletes," said Thomas F. Durning, MCCS Iwakuni SemperFit division athletics director. "When you do this event, you look around and see that everyone is going through the same thing during the race. When the Americans and Japanese get to compete against each other, they find that they are not too different."

Besides Friendship Day, the races MCCS Iwakuni sponsors are the best way to allow locals access to the station.

"Many of the people outside the gates have no idea what the inside of the station looks like," said Durning. "When we invite (locals) aboard the station to compete, it gives them a better understanding of the station and the opportunities available here for them. If the local people understand more about the station, they are more likely to support the mission of the station."

Participants stretched out across the grass in front of IronWorks Gym before the race started, preparing for the challenge ahead.

The race started in front of IronWorks Gym with a four kilometer run to Penny Lake fields and back on the seawall. Participants then changed over to their bikes inside the bike rack area for a 24-kilometer biking portion. The last part of the race had participants place their bikes back in the racks and run for another four kilometers from the seawall to Penny Lake fields, finishing in front of IronWorks.

"I am grateful this event gave me the

opportunity to come aboard the station and compete," said Takuya Miki, Iwakuni city resident and male division overall winner, via a translator.

Miki was the first athlete to cross the finish line with a time of 1 hour, 17 minutes, 14 seconds.

"Work is what I have to do to provide for my life, but this is something more important than work to me; it is something I love to do," said Miki.

Yasuyo Tonoyama, an Iwakuni city resident, was the overall female division winner with a time of 1:18:13.

"This is a great opportunity for Americans and Japanese to get together in sports," said Mai Tajima, MCCS Iwakuni SemperFit division athletics recreation specialist. "How many events do you see where we bring so many Japanese people aboard the station? This is a great opportunity for participants, their families, JMSDF and U.S. active duty volunteers."

While the event was sponsored by MCCS Iwakuni, it required the support of many departments within the station.

"There is a lot that goes into preparing for the event," said Tajima. "You have to block the road and make an announcement to the local people. The clinic, (Provost Marshal's Office) and everybody aboard the station helped. It took me about two months to prepare for this."

The events MCCS Iwakuni host have started to become even more successful at bringing in Iwakuni city locals to participate.

"We did this same race last year and we had 65 participants," said Durning. "This year we had more than 130, doubling our participation."

There were six divisions total, three for males, two for females and one for team participants. Trophies and prizes were passed out to the first, second and third place participants of each division.



Takuya Miki, Iwakuni city resident, crosses the finish line at the 2011 Heat the Streets Duathlon that took place here Sunday. Miki was the first athlete to cross the finish line, coming in with a time of one hour, 17 minutes and 14 seconds, finishing before some participants had completed their biking portion. The event was sponsored by MCCS Iwakuni.



Athletes pass IronWorks Gym here during their bike route for the 2011 Heat the Streets Duathlon that took place here Sunday. Participants were spread out across the grass in front of IronWorks Sunday morning before the race started, stretching out to prepare for the challenge ahead. The Duathlon is an annual event sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni to strengthen bonds between station residents and Japanese locals. Besides Friendship Day, the races MCCS Iwakuni sponsors are the best way to allow locals access to the station. Participants started the race in front of IronWorks Gym with a four kilometer run to Penny Lake fields and back on the seawall. Participants then changed over to their bikes inside the bike rack area for a 24-kilometer biking portion. The last part of the race had participants place their bikes back in the racks and run for another four kilometers from the seawall to Penny Lake fields, finishing in front of IronWorks.

Roses bowl over competition to take lead in flag football

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Suzuhara Fighting Roses took first place in a Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports double-elimination flag football tournament in the 10-12 year old division at the Matthew C. Perry School soccer fields here Sunday.

The Roses' first game was against the Bears with the Bears getting the ball at the start of the half.

The Roses were quick off the ball in their first defensive series, showing as the Roses' staunch defense quickly forced the Bears to punt the ball.

The Roses meant business as they stepped onto the field. With a series of play-action passes and sweeps, the Roses quickly marched down the field. Natsuki Kawano, Roses running back, swept toward the sideline as several Bears defenders attempted to stop her before Amber M. McCarthy-Figueroa, Bears safety, came to make the stop.

"The sweep plays were my favorite to run because it's something we worked on a lot," said Miyuna Yamamoto, Roses quarterback.

The ground game continued to aid the Roses on the next play when Yamamoto scrambled out of the pocket for a touchdown. The Roses tacked on the one-point conversion, making the score 7-0.

The Bears went to their short-passing game to get down field, but were denied a first down by the Roses.

The Roses set themselves up for good field position when the Bears elected to punt the ball to Yamamoto.

Yamamoto sped down the field, narrowly avoiding several defenders, before being stopped at the five yard line. The Roses scored two plays later on in a short, dump-off pass over the middle. The Roses went for the one point conversion. The score was now 14-0.

The Bears, wanting to put a stop to their offensive drought, went to the air. Braiden K. Chatigny, Bears quarterback, connected several times with Figueroa and Caleb V. Ricafrente, Bears wide receivers, on a series of midfield passes before connecting with Ricafrente in the end zone. The Bears went for a two-point conversion but were denied by the Roses.

The Roses once again marched down the field, but were stopped just short of the goal line before the half. The score was 14-6.

The Roses received the ball to start the second half. The Roses made a statement by going to the air again. Forced out of the pocket, Yamamoto threw down the field to China Kumaki, Roses wide receiver, for a touchdown. The Roses continued to pour on the touchdowns and disrupt the Bears' attempts at scoring before the referees enacted the mercy rule with two minutes left to play. The Roses finished the game with a final score of 34-6.

Though the Bears lost, the final score did not weigh heavily on the players shoulders.

"We all like to win, but we were told from the beginning to just have fun," said Figueroa.

The Roses did more of the same against their next opponent, the Packers. The Roses allowed only one touchdown and racked up several of their own, making the final score 43-6.

The Roses showed humility during their victories, grateful for the opportunity to play against American players.

"I wanted my players to have an opportunity to interact with American children and have a cultural exchange, but also see the difference between American-style and Japanese-style of flag football," said Tatsuyuki Asai, Roses head coach. "We play five-on-five and American-style is seven-on-seven."

The need for Japanese and American children to interact and experience different cultural aspects was also something important in the tournament.

"When we do things like that, it makes it easier for all players to interact in the future and do more events like this," said Asai.

Finishing behind the Roses, the Bears took second place while the Packers placed third; the Saints and Steelers finished fourth and fifth, respectively.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

China Kumaki, Suzuhara Fighting Roses wide receiver, tries to avoid having her flag pulled off by Caeleb V. Ricafrente, Bears linebacker and wide receiver, in a Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports double-elimination flag football tournament in the 10-12 year old division at the Matthew C. Perry School soccer field here Sunday. The Roses routed the Bears in considerable fashion, beating the Bears 34-6.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Caeleb V. Ricafrente, Bears linebacker and wide receiver, avoids Koudai Aomori, Fighting Roses safety and wide receiver, on his way to a touchdown against the Roses during a Marine Corps Community Service Youth Sports flag football tournament in the 10-12 year old division at the Matthew C. Perry soccer field here Sunday. The Roses were the overall winners in the tournament with the Bears, Packers placing second, third, respectively.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Miyuna Yamamoto, Fighting Roses quarterback and safety, runs toward the sideline to avoid Patrick Gomes, Packers wide receiver and linebacker. The Roses beat the Packers 43-6 during a Marine Corps Community Service Youth Sports flag football tournament in the 10-12 year old division at the Matthew C. Perry soccer field here Sunday. The Roses beat both the Packers and Bears with a combined score of 77-12 to take first place in the tournament.