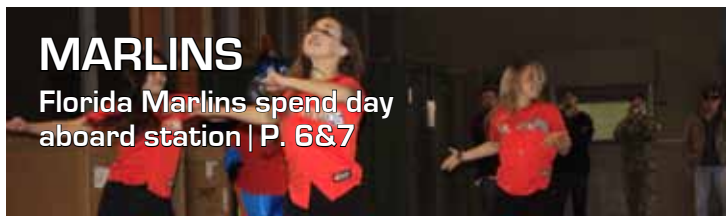




HISTORY

Marines, sailors learn Guam history | P. 5



MARLINS

Florida Marlins spend day aboard station | P. 6&7



DODGE

Teams dodge projectiles | P. 11

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 47 Vol. 4 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Silver Eagles fly, come rain or shine

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, also known as the Silver Eagles, practiced different flight scenarios as part of Exercise Wolmi-do Fury, here Dec. 7.

Exercise Wolmi-do Fury is an approximately monthlong training exercise that includes a flying surge in a 72-hour time period designed to push Marines and sailors to their limits, improving combat proficiency.

VMFA-115 is part of the Unit Deployment Program, which allows squadrons a chance to train in the Pacific theater and perform a wide range of scenarios over approximately a six-month period.

Training in different areas worldwide allows the Marines to be ready to successfully complete any type of

SEE **WEATHER** ON PAGE 3



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Capt. Christopher Robinson, a Marine Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 115 pilot, looks over the controls before takeoff during a 72-hour air surge here Dec. 7. Pilots flew throughout the night and faced the obstacles of rain and flying in darkness. Operation Wolmi-do Fury is an approximate monthlong training exercise including a flying surge.

Fighting fires for fuels future

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Bulk fuel specialists with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 completed annually-required training, with help from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, at the burn pit near the harbor here Dec. 8.

“Once a year MWSS-171 bulk fuel specialist Marines come out and do this training to stay proficient in their job skills,” said Gunnery Sgt. Robert A. Rudolph, MWSS-171 ARFF embarkation chief. “They pump fuel every day so if fuel catches fire they have to know how to put it out.”

This annual training is required for all Marines here who work with fuel.

“Working with fuel all day long, the Marines have to be ready to deal with whatever may happen,” said Rudolph.

All Marines who participate in the training, whether putting out fires or working around the burn pit, are required to wear proper safety gear.

“Safety is paramount,” said Staff Sgt. Nathan K. Lanham, MWSS-171 ARFF section one leader. “You can never emphasize (safety) enough.”

The proximity gear that the Marines wear protects every part of their body and can prevent injuries if a wind change were to turn flames toward the Marines.

“We want the Marines to be confident when it comes to their job, to be able to deal with fires efficiently and effectively,” said Lanham. “This training is done to make sure the Marines are comfortable with the gear they use every day.”

SEE **EXTINGUISH** ON PAGE 3

Marines, sailors give troubled youth positive reinforcement, help

LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marines and sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 volunteered in a community relations event at the Guam Department of Youth Affairs, a correctional facility for troubled youth, Dec. 10, as part of a monthlong deployment to the region.

The purpose of the event was to enhance camaraderie, unit cohesion and give back to the community.

The children were excited to see the Marines and sailors, and the

Marines and sailors in turn were excited to help and interact with DYA clients.

“Today our Marines and sailors came to the youth detention center here simply to interact with these kids by playing volleyball, basketball, football, eating lunch with them, talking to them and mentoring them,” said Cmdr. Dean Hoelz, MAG-12 deputy chaplain. “The purpose of doing this event is to give back to the community on our off time and try to give these kids some positive reinforcement.”

After a day of games, everyone sat down to fill their stomachs with lunch provided by DYA.

“I hope the kids are able to learn camaraderie, teamwork, team

SEE **TROUBLED** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Tis the season'

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

It is that time of year when the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping and holiday cheer begins. People are scurrying about trying to find the best Black Friday and holiday deals for their loved ones. The newest and latest gadgets are being advertised, and many of us are spending way more than we can afford for that one special day. In the midst of all of the holiday shopping and chaos, I wonder if we really remember the reason for the season. Has the meaning of Christmas become

too commercialized? I was asked a week ago to do a presentation on the meaning of why we celebrate Christmas as Christians. After completing the presentation, it really made me reflect deeper on the true meaning of Christmas. It may seem cliché, but is Jesus really the reason for the season?

I know all people are not Christians, and I respect everyone's belief, but would we still celebrate Christmas without the birth of Christ? I wonder what Christmas would be like if Christ had not been born? Would we still have the holiday trees instead of Christmas trees? Would we still have the gifts, holiday parties, Christmas carols or fellowship with loved ones and friends as

well as Christmas Carols? Would we call this day "Santa Claus Day" instead of Christmas?

Even St. Nicholas, who we affectionately call Santa Claus, was raised in a Christian household. Because of his strong Christian faith, he gave away his inheritance and dedicated his life to the poor, sick and needy after the death of his parents. Jesus' birth and ministry had a profound effect on St. Nicholas and was the foundation for his ministry in third century Greece. Without the birth of Christ, there would have been no Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus, because he wouldn't have heard of the compelling ministry of Christ. The question still remains, is Christmas still Christmas without Christ?

GATE CLOSURES

Contractors Gate:

- CLOSED beginning 6:30 p.m. Dec. 30
- RE-OPENS 6:30 a.m. Jan. 4

North Gate:

- CLOSED beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 30
- RE-OPENS at 7 a.m. Jan. 4

Main Gate, Monzen Gate and Station Ordnance Gate:

- Remain at normal operations during holiday season



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Train for weather

WEATHER FROM PAGE 1

mission whether it be refueling, air-to-air combat, air-to-ground combat or any scenario which may occur.

"For my flight during Exercise Wolmi-do Fury, we took off in the afternoon and practiced armed reconnaissance and strike coordination," said Capt. Christopher F. Melling, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot from VMFA-115 in training to become a section leader. "We received gas by aerial refueling from a KC-10 Extender, then we were able to finish flying missions before landing."

During the flying scenario, pilots of VMFA-115 faced multiple types of weather conditions; Light rains, heavy rains and complete darkness.

"The weather was a significant challenge, not being able to physically see your fellow pilots made it more difficult," said Melling. "We had to give up that mutual support due to the weather, and rely on our aircraft sensors and technology to help complete the mission."

Weather plays a critical role in mission accomplishment, but the Marines of VMFA-115 push themselves in order to ensure pilots have what they need in order to successfully complete their mission.

"The rain is difficult to see in, and it's hard enough at night," said Sgt. Ethan D. Hitchcock, a VMFA-115 power line technician. "On a normal day you would be able to see what the pilot is telling you but the rain makes it harder to communicate."

Marines maintain the aircraft and perform complete inspections before and after every flight.



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam - A Marine Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 115 F/A-18 hornet returns from flight as part of a 72 hour air surge here during exercise Wolmi-do Fury Dec. 7. During the air surge VMFA-115 went into 24 hour operations of continuous flying.

"All of the inspections are going to take a little longer. Because of the weather, we need to walk around the entire aircraft with flashlights," said Hitchcock.

Even when Marines try to fix a problem to the best of their abilities, unexpected problems will always arise.

"A lot of the problems out here are caused by low visibility because of the little amount of light," said Hitchcock. "The few lights we do have reflect off different surfaces."

The bad weather creates many problems for personnel who perform a multitude of jobs.

"Working with ordnance, the smallest mistake could be (catastrophic) and every task is harder during the night," said Lance Cpl. Gregory T. Morris, a VMFA-115 ordnance

technician. "Especially with the addition of bad weather, there is an increased possibility of substantial problems."

With the added possibilities of problems, bad weather forces everyone to stay vigilant and ensure safety among the unit.

"Weather is just an added factor, safety is still our primary concern," said Morris. "Bad weather and the night are more factors which makes everything more difficult."

Marines complete their mission whether it deals with ordnance, power lines, maintenance or flying planes during good or bad conditions.

Marines and sailors are not always stationed in a comfortable climate. Practice and preparation for any type of weather will help every mission be successful.

Marines, sailors become role models to troubled youth

TROUBLED FROM PAGE 1

building and trust through this visit," said Thomas Talavera, DYA corrections officer.

The interaction is beneficial for children who are incarcerated and isolated from the rest of society.

"I think the most important thing we're hoping the kids get out of this is they realize there are people out there who care," said Talavera. "These people aren't here to judge, but to support them to stay out of this place."

The mission of the DYA is to improve the quality of life on Guam for all people by the development and implementation of programs and services, which promote youth development, decrease juvenile delinquency and status offenses, strengthen the family unit and communities of juvenile offenders, protect the public from juvenile delinquents, ensure offenders are held accountable for

their actions, are provided with appropriate treatment, and provide restitution to the victims.

DYA clients have committed many different crimes, which have caused them to be incarcerated. Their ages range from 10 to 19-year-olds and the majority of offenses committed are alcohol and drug related according to DYA leadership.

"The community and parents need to realize we need to control alcohol and drugs a little better," said Talavera. "Society needs to take a step back and give these kids a break. They're not evil, they just made mistakes."

At the DYA, leadership hopes to teach children how to obey laws to keep them from coming back to the facility in the future.

"I want the kids to learn to respect themselves," said Talavera. "Once the kids are able to respect themselves and realize what it is they're respecting about themselves, everything else about following rules and

respecting the law will fall into place."

Talavera also believes it is beneficial for DYA clients to have Marines and sailors visit to help with team building.

"This is a big help for them, this benefits them because they're all getting along," said Talavera. "I think the fact that they're working in teams, shows they're learning team building skills."

The visit isn't just beneficial for DYA clients. Marines and sailors are also receiving a rewarding experience.

"It feels good to know we're boosting these kids' morale," said Lance Cpl. Michael Perez, a MALS-12 aircraft maintenance support equipment electricians/refrigeration mechanic.

The DYA encourages not only Marines and sailors to volunteer in the future, but also hopes the community finds the opportunity to volunteer and support the troubled youth of Guam.

Flames throw heat to ARFF Marines during controlled fire training exercise

EXTINGUISH FROM PAGE 1

Marines worked in pairs of two per water hose, switching off which Marine controlled the hose so both Marines gained experience spraying the flames and guiding the other Marine.

"We do this training to be the best at what we do every day," said Lance Cpl. Frank Rodriguez, MWSS-171 bulk

fuel specialist.

The heat from the flames could be felt on anything or anyone who approached the blaze too closely.

"We deal with fuel every day, so we need to know every aspect of our job," said Rodriguez.

Marines with ARFF perform this training at least once yearly to meet the safety requirements for their job.

Marines travel through history park

LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, Guam – Marines with Marine Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 115 took a tour at the War in the Pacific National Historical Park here Saturday.

The purpose of the tour was to reintroduce Marines to their roots, build camaraderie and unit cohesion.

"The Park was created by Congress in 1978 to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of everyone who participated in Pacific theater of World War II and to preserve and protect the natural, cultural and historical resources of Guam for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations," said Ben Hayes, a Park ranger with the National Park Service and tour guide for the event.

Hayes provided photographs and recordings from the battles, which gave Marines a different look at history and took them back in time.

"It's really cool the park ranger supplied photos, which gave us a unique perspective to see what that Marine was looking at back when the event was happening," said Capt. Taylor Shenkman, VMFA-115 Section One officer-in-charge and a pilot.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese captured Guam.

December 10, 1941: Guam had been in U.S. possession since its capture from Spain in 1898.

"Seventy years ago Guam became the first American soil captured by a foreign power since the war of 1812," said Hayes.

Guam, the largest of the Mariana Islands, was not as heavily fortified as other Marianas but Japanese had built up a large garrison by 1944.

Guam was chosen as a target because its

large size made it a suitable base to support the next stage of operations towards the Philippines, Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands. The deep-water harbor would also be able to accommodate the largest ships and the two airfields would be suitable for B-29 Superfortress bombers.

Despite the natural obstacles of cliffs, reefs and heavy surf, American troops landed on both sides of the Orote peninsula on the west coast of Guam, July 21, with a plan to take over the airfield. The 3rd Marine Division landed near Agana to the north of Orote, and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed near Agat to the south.

Hayes narrated the history as Marines stood on top of a hill overlooking the beach where 20,000 troops landed. Through Hayes' narration and photographs, the Marines imagined the scene as it was when the battle for Guam began.

Japanese artillery sank 20 Landing Vehicles Tracked, and caused heavy casualties to Marine troops, but troops and tanks still made it ashore.

The U.S. Army 77th Infantry Division had a more difficult landing. They lacked amphibious vehicles and had to wade ashore from the edge of the reef where they were dropped by their landing craft.

Marines moved inland and by nightfall had established beachheads approximately 2,000 meters deep. Throughout the first few days of the battle, Japanese counter-attacks were made using infiltration tactics. American troop defenses were penetrated several times and were driven back with heavy casualties and equipment loss.

Imperial Japanese Army Lt. Gen. Takeshi Takashina, commanding general of all military units in Guam's defense, was killed July 28, and Lt. Gen. Hideyoshi Obata, Japanese 31st Army commanding general,

assumed command.

The two beachheads were joined July 25, and the Orote airfield and Apra Harbor were captured by July 30.

At the start of August, Japanese troops were running out of food and ammunition and had few tanks left. Obata withdrew his troops from the south of Guam. He planned to make a stand in the mountains of the central and northern part of the island.

Resupply and reinforcement became impossible because American troops now had control of the sea and air around Guam. Obata could do no more than delay defeat for a few days.

August 10, 1944, after three weeks of fierce and bloody fighting, organized Japanese resistance ended. Guam was declared secure after two and a half years of Japanese occupation.

The last stop on the tour was the memorial dedicated to all those who lost their lives and fought in the war.

Once the tour ended, Marines were invited to the Pacific War Museum to enjoy the historical relics from the war and to enjoy a hearty dinner provided by some veterans and locals of Guam.

"We're here to look at history, cherish it and see how we came to be the Marine Corps we are today through World War II and previous wars," said Cpl. Clayton Kavenaugh, a VMFA-115 fixed-wing aircraft mechanic, F/A-18. "Through tours like this, we can see where everything, which was instilled in us through all our training, came from and how the Marine Corps came to be the way it is today."

Kavenaugh encourages all Marines who pass through Guam to take the tour, citing that taking a look back in time will help everyone support fallen service members and cherish the world we live in today.



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, Guam – Marine Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 115 Marines examine one of three Piti guns, Japanese-made Vickers-type Model 3 140 mm coastal defense guns, in their original emplacements during a comprehensive tour of battle sights and relics from the war in the Pacific during World War II here Dec 3. The weapons, although intended for use primarily against ships and landing craft during World War II, have never been fired. The Piti guns will remain silent for the rest of their existence.

MWSS-171 mobilization exercises improve expeditionary abilities

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines conducted flight line and harbor expeditionary exercises here Monday through Friday.

These exercises were meant to show Marines how much time, assets and manpower is needed for the squadron to respond in an expeditionary manner.

The quick mobilization of the squadron during combat scenarios also helped Marines improve their mission readiness.

"This not only helps us with our jobs, but also with the national security of Japan," said Cpl. Nicholas R. Garcia, MWSS-171 embarkation noncommissioned officer in charge. "Learning how to respond quickly has always been a staple of the Corps. Responding quickly here could save the lives of both Americans and Japanese."

The squadron moved approximately 80 percent of its gear and personnel during the exercise.

"This is great for our Marines to learn their gear and how to move it in a timely fashion should we be called to do so," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bradley S. Gilmer, MWSS-171 mobility officer. "This is what Marines do as an expeditionary force with a 24-hour turnaround time. We protect America and her allies."

Approximately 20 MWSS-171 Marines received M16A4 rifles as an advanced landing party to secure the area for the staged equipment during a combat scenario.

Marines staged their large equipment upon completion of the flight line operations. Gear such as the tractor rubber tired articulated steering multipurpose vehicle was used to stage the majority of the gear, at the harbor for seaside transport.

"We have air field and port operations at our disposal," Gilmer said. "Iwakuni is perfect for expeditionary exercises. That is one of the great benefits of being here."

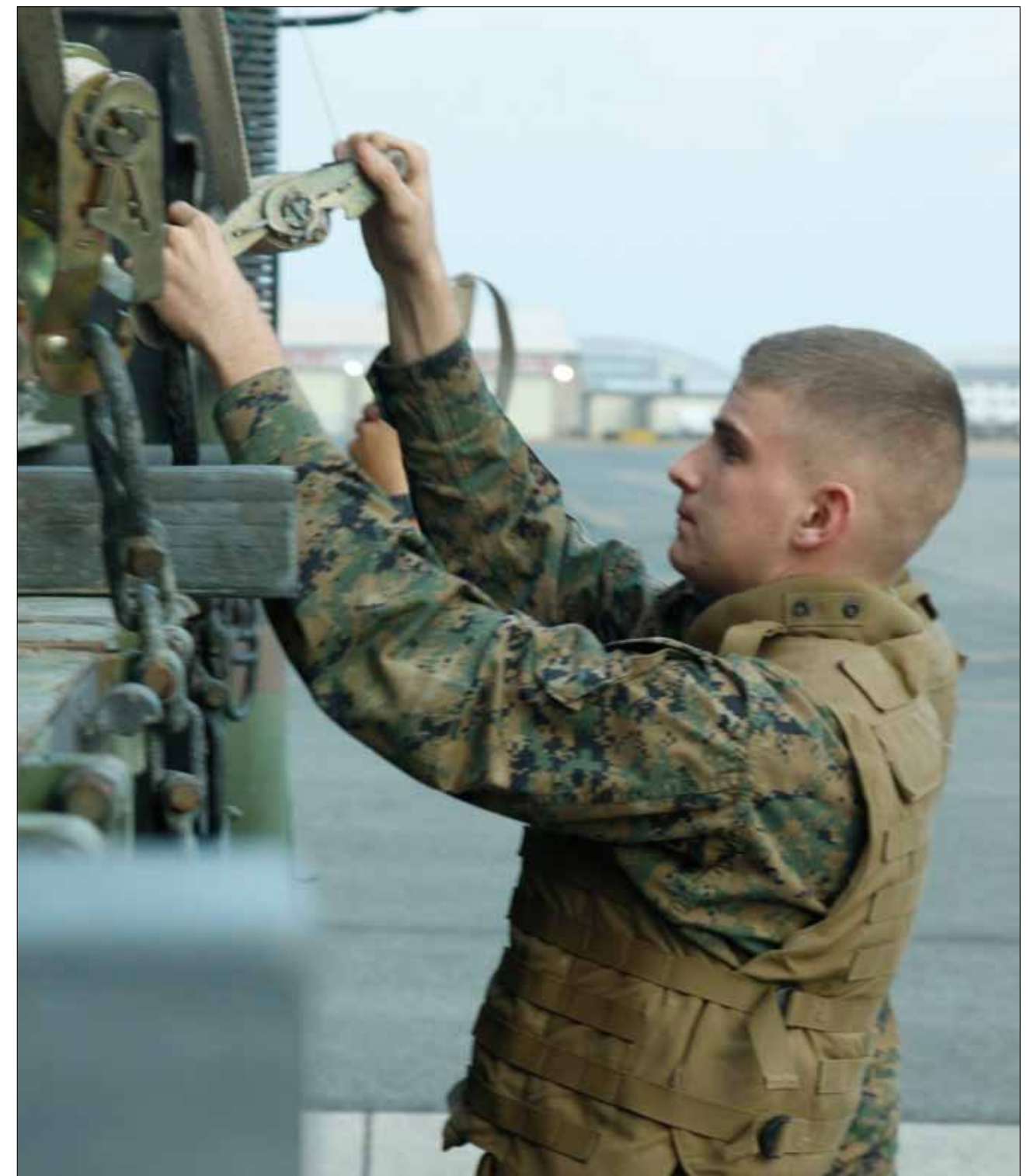
The exercises revealed any deficiencies the Marines could experience during movements, such as this, and fix them.

"I think this is a great way for us to perfect our jobs so we are prepared for any situation," Garcia said. "Being in Japan, we have to be able to protect our host country to the best of our ability."

Exercises like this are executed annually during Key Resolve and Foal Eagle.

"Based off the success of this internal mission, I think we will be able to perform exercises like this more in the future," said Lance Cpl. Michael A. Futia, MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator. "This keeps the squadron on its toes and increases our abilities to perform as Marines."

This is the first time MWSS-171 has been able to perform an exercise on this scale without supporting a unit deployment program squadron.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Lance Cpl. Tyler D. Teigen, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer, releases straps for supplies during flight line and harbor loading and unloading exercises here Monday. This is the first time MWSS-171 has been able to perform an exercise of this scale without supporting a unit deployment program squadron.



Lance Cpl. Michael A. Futia, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment operator, guides a tractor rubber tired articulated steering multipurpose vehicle to lift supplies during flight line and harbor loading and unloading exercises here Monday. The exercises highlighted critical areas of an expeditionary movement.

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Miami Marlins

Major league makes major travels, Miami Marlins visit Pacific Theater

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Members of the Miami Marlins major league baseball team, with support from Armed Forces Entertainment, spent a full day visiting station residents here Dec. 7.

Three Marlins' players, along with three Miami Marlins' Mermaids team dancers, traveled in a two week tour visiting military bases across the Pacific to spend time with service members far from home.

"It is really good for the morale of the troops and their families to get a taste of Americana, to have a piece of home brought to them," said Capt. John Gileland, AFE Pacific circuit manager.

AFE gives professional athletes, comedians and other entertainers the opportunity to visit American bases and stations outside the continental U.S.

This is the fourth AFE trip the Marlins have conducted and their first time visiting the Pacific region.

"The Marlins love seeing what the troops do, to experience firsthand what the different units do on a daily basis is something they will always remember," said Gileland. "I've got my (military occupational specialty) but even for me to see what the different bases and MOSs do overseas is a learning experience."

The Marlins started the day with early morning physical training with Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. After thanking the Marines and posing for a group photo, they cleaned up and prepared for the rest of their day.

"We are eternally thankful for all (the troops) do for us," said Bryan Petersen, Miami Marlins outfielder. "We want to show the troops they mean so much to us that we will take the time to fly out here and support them."

The Marlins spent the day visiting different units around the station, signing autographs and spending time with Marines while learning about what Marines aboard the station do every day.

"It was really cool to see that the Marines are normal," said Petersen. "You get this viewpoint of guys that just hold guns, but they have their jobs just like us. They have families, emotions, feelings, yet they do something for a living that is so incredible that getting to see this personal side really helps to relate to them."

Everywhere the Marlins went they were greeted with open arms by Marines who were more than willing to share stories about their daily lives, but most importantly

Capt. Ernesto C. Howard, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 S-4 officer and pilot shows the dancers of the Miami Marlins' Mermaids the inside of an F/A-18 Hornet cockpit. Three Marlins' players, along with three Miami Marlins' Mermaids traveled in a two-week tour visiting military bases across the Pacific to spend time with service members far from home.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

to get to spend time with the visitors.

"Because we're (Department of Defense), the entertainers who go on these trips aren't getting paid," said Jennifer Milikien, AFE public affairs director. "Everyone who comes on tour is here because they really want to be here, to give back to the troops."

The Marlins signed autographs for service members and a baseball for the commanding officer of each unit they visited.

"The Marines have been so welcoming here, it has been amazing," said Milikien. "Every unit we visited has been so excited to meet the players and the dancers. It's been a wonderful experience."

After visiting several units aboard the station, the Marlins went to the Penny Lake baseball field where the Mermaids practiced and performed a dance routine with resident children while the players played a mini-softball game with other children.

"For a lot of the young Marines, they get right out of boot camp and school, and this is their first duty station," said Master Sgt. Roy D. Whitener, MWSS-171 operations chief. "For the junior Marines to get an opportunity like this is a great benefit for them and the performers who get to see the people protecting them."

After signing more autographs for the children, the Marlins' players participated in a softball game with station residents.

"For the junior Marines to be this far away from home for two or more years, it would be beneficial to get a lot more of these events," said Whitener. "This kind of event is great for the Marines, the kids and families aboard the station."

AFE organizes approximately 120 annual trips that entertain approximately 500,000 troops.

"The whole experience has been overwhelming, but enjoyable," said Stephanie, Miami Marlins Mermaid dancer. "I wish everyone on the team could come here."

The Marlins' players and dancers spent the entire day with the Marines aboard the station.

"You guys are my heroes. It is so different being with troops, and it means so much to us to be able to come out here and see how our service members live," said Stephanie. "I feel so welcomed here. This day means a lot to us, and we really appreciate everything you do for us. I think it means just as much to us getting to come visit you as it does for you guys."



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER



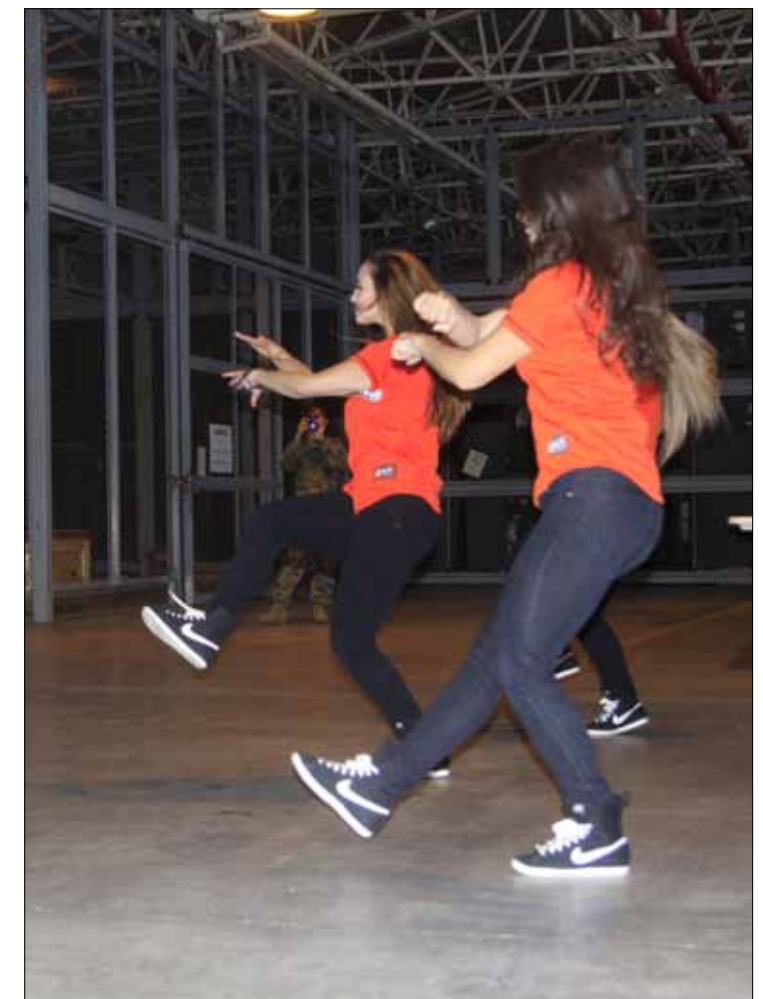
PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Miami Marlins' players and Marlins' Mermaids dancers signs autographs for station resident children at the Penny Lake baseball field here Dec. 7. This was a unique experience for most Marines.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Mike Stanton, Miami Marlins' right fielder, tries on a flak and Improved Load Bearing Equipment pack provided by the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines here Dec. 7.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Dancers from the Miami Marlins' Mermaids perform a dance routine for the Marines of Combat Logistics Company 36 inside the CLC-36 supply warehouse here Dec. 7. Miami Marlins' Mermaids traveled in a two-week tour visiting military bases.

Ashley, a dancer with the Miami Marlins' Mermaids pets one of the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 unit dogs after a demonstration by PMO's K-9 unit here Dec. 7. The Marlins spent the day visiting different units around the station, signing autographs and spending time with Marines while learning about what Marines aboard the station do every day. Armed Forces Entertainment gives professional athletes, comedians and other entertainers the opportunity to visit American bases and stations outside the continental U.S. This is the fourth AFE trip the Marlins have conducted and their first time visiting the Pacific region. Everywhere the Marlins went they were greeted with open arms by Marines who were more than willing to share stories about their daily lives, but most importantly to get to spend time with the visitors. The Marlins signed autographs for service members and a baseball for the commanding officer of each unit they visited. After visiting several units aboard the station, the Marlins went to the Penny Lake baseball field where the Mermaids practiced and performed a dance routine with resident children while the players played a mini-softball game with other children. AFE organizes approximately 120 yearly trips that entertain approximately 500,000 troops.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Corps' largest aircraft depends on small team of Marines in Afghanistan

CPL. JUSTIN M. BOLING
2ND MARINE
AIRCRAFT WING (FWD)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The "K" in KC-130J Hercules signifies the Marine Corps aircraft's ability to refuel other planes in midair. Refueling attack jets like the AV-8B Harrier while flying increases tactical options for commanders on the ground. "In the case of the Harrier we can provide them with the ability to stay in the air for nearly twice as long," explained Staff Sgt. Frederick Wiseman, a Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (FWD) KC-130J Hercules crewmaster operations staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "That means twice as much time to provide reconnaissance or close-air support for ground forces operating in the Helmand River valley."

Aerial refueling takes place thousands of feet above the battlefields of Afghanistan with aircraft traveling hundreds of miles per hour. On the KC-130J, pilots work communications and monitor changing of weather patterns, while the enlisted crewmasters control fuel distribution and keep eye contact with the connected aircraft.

"We like to call the KC-130J a crew-served weapon because it takes a team to operate it, between maintainers, crewmasters and pilots," said Sgt. Jon Lofthouse, a crewmaster with VMGR-252. "We have to know what every switch, knob and button does, and be able to troubleshoot and fix them if they are not functioning properly."

Maj. Walter Butler, a KC-130J pilot deployed to Afghanistan with VMGR-252, said the enlisted crewmasters on each Hercules aircraft make aerial refueling possible.

"The primary function that we perform is serving as the eyes for the pilots during aerial refueling and being ready to act in case an emergency arises," said Wiseman, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of crewmaster operations for KC-130J Hercules Marines deployed to Afghanistan.

"We rely on their judgment if something were to go wrong," added Butler, who also serves as

the commanding officer of KC-130J Hercules Marines deployed to Afghanistan.

KC-130J support in Afghanistan comes from a combined unit of three Marine aerial refueler transport squadron's detachments deployed from Miramar, Calif.; Okinawa, Japan; and Cherry Point, N.C.

VMGR-252, out of Cherry Point, currently serves as the command element for the deployed detachment. The Cherry Point troops work daily with VMGR-152 Marines, deployed from Okinawa.

VMGR-352, deployed from Miramar, operates the specially-equipped Harvest HAWK KC-130J, which, in addition to typical Hercules duties, is also capable of providing close-air support with its advanced targeting system and air-to-ground missiles.

"The fact that we have united Marines from all three different squadrons brings us a group of talented and skilled Marine crewmasters," said Maj. John Bowes, a KC-130J Hercules pilot deployed with VMGR-152. "Our work directly affects the tide of operations and these Marines rise to that task every day."

The responsibilities of crewmasters aren't limited to aerial refueling. 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) uses the KC-130J Hercules in a variety of other roles, including aerial resupply, battlefield illumination, and troop and cargo transport in southwestern Afghanistan.

"We are responsible for hundreds of people and their packs as well as thousands of pounds of gear every day," said Lance Cpl. Dustin Jirovsky, a crewmaster with VMGR-352. "With the changing needs of passengers and cargo, each day is like a game of Tetris."

The KC-130J Hercules is the largest aircraft in the Marine Corps arsenal. The propeller-driven, fixed-wing behemoth is the latest iteration of an airframe the U.S. military has relied on for more than 50 years.

"I love this job, I cannot imagine doing anything else," said Lance Cpl. Doug Burnett, a crewmaster with VMGR-252. "I love getting to fly around and see different parts of Afghanistan while contributing to the efforts of troops in country."



CPL. JUSTIN M. BOLING



CPL. JUSTIN M. BOLING

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — A Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier links with a KC-130J Hercules at high speeds in Afghanistan skies. The ability of the Marine aerial refueler transport squadrons present at Kandahar Airfield allows Marine attack aircraft to increase their time in the sky.



CPL. JUSTIN M. BOLING

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Cpl. Cody Deck, a crewmaster with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, inspects one of the KC-130J's propellers at Kandahar Airfield, Sept. 18. Crewmasters are tasked with loading and unloading cargo and passengers, and being the eyes and ears of the pilots conducting aerial resupply and refuel. Aerial refueling takes places thousands of feet above the battlefields of Afghanistan with aircraft traveling hundreds of miles per hour. On the KC-130J, pilots work communications and monitor changing weather patterns, while the enlisted crewmasters control fuel distribution and keep eye contact with the connected aircraft.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

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. For more information, to report lost items or to claim lost items, call 253-5551.

Burglary Investigation

CID has been conducting an investigation on a burglary that occurred sometime between late evening Oct. 7 and early morning Oct. 8 within Barracks 335 Room 221. Suspects stole a Macbook Pro Laptop computer belonging to a

Marine from MACS-4 Det Bravo. If anyone has any information regarding this investigation, or any other crime, inform your command, call CID, go to Building 608 for an interview or call the anonymous Crime Stoppers line at 253-3333.

Relief Donation

The Officers' Spouses' Club is scheduled to hold a Taiko drum and Tsunami relief donation event from 2 - 5 p.m., Jan. 29, at the Marine Memorial Chapel. For more information, contact Ms. Megan Reed at maggylou@gmail.com.

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.

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/IwakuniMOPS.

Vehicle

1994 Mitsubishi Delica

JCI expires September 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.

HAPPY

Holiday Hours

HOLIDAYS

Commissary



- Dec. 16: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Dec. 18: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Dec. 19: CLOSED
- Dec. 20: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 22: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Dec. 25: CLOSED
- Dec. 26: CLOSED
- Dec. 27: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 28: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 29: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 30: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 31: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Jan. 1: CLOSED
- Jan. 2: CLOSED
- Jan. 3: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Pass and Registration

The pass and Registration Office located in PMO will be on limited operations during the holiday season. The Japanese section of Pass and Registration will be closed beginning at 3 p.m. Dec. 23 and will re-open at 8 a.m. Jan. 4. Please collect applicable vehicle and contract passes prior to closure. The American section of Pass and Registration will operate with limited manning during the holiday season and will close at 3 p.m. Dec. 23 and will re-open at 7:30 a.m. Dec. 27. The office will close at 3 p.m. Dec. 30 and will re-open at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 3.



INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Catholic

- Dec. 24 Midnight Christmas Midnight Mass
- Dec. 25 8:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
- Dec. 31 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass / The Motherhood of Mary
- Jan. 1 8:30 a.m. The Motherhood of Mary Mass / New Year's Day

Protestant

- Dec. 22 7 p.m. Sinfonia Concert Hall Protestant Children Choir
- Dec. 24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service
- Dec. 31 10:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship Service

Church of Christ

- Sundays 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



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 work as a team to push back the fire inside the burn pit near the harbor as part of their annual training here Dec. 8. 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. For more information call 253-5551.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, December 16, 2011

7 p.m. The Big Year (PG)
Premiere
10 p.m. The Thing (R)
Premiere

Saturday, December 17, 2011

4 p.m. The Muppets (PG)
Premiere
7 p.m. The Ides of March (R)

Sunday, December 18, 2011

4 p.m. The Muppets (PG)
7 p.m. The Three Musketeers (PG-13)
Premiere

Monday, December 19, 2011

7 p.m. The Three Musketeers (PG-13)

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Theater Closed

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

Theater Closed

Thursday, December 22, 2011

7 p.m. The Thing (R)

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

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

Mess Hall Menu

Monday:

Corn chowder, turkey yakisoba, Chinese barbecue diced pork, red pepper glazed fish, pork fried rice, steamed rice, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, cinnamon crumb top muffin, blueberry pie, velvet pound cake, brownies, chocolate cream pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tuesday:

Chicken gumbo soup, French fried shrimp, sukiyaki, barbecue beef cubes, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, cauliflower parmesan, southern style greens, creamy gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, long Johns, banana muffin, lemon meringue, devil's food cake with chocolate buttercream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday:

French onion soup, Chinese five spice chicken, Swiss steak with brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage with bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, quick cherry coffee cake, blueberry pie, white cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday:

New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, baked ham, macaroni and tomatoes, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas with onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, banana cake with buttercream frosting, macadamia chocolate chunks, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Friday:

Tomato soup, fried catfish, beef stew, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, Franconia potatoes, steamed pasta, succotash, broccoli parmesan, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, cinnamon rolls, quick French coffee cake, blueberry pie, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting, chocolate chip cookie, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tail Hookers take tournament

Dodgeball teams duck, dive to dominance

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Tail Hookers took first place during the 2011 intramural dodgeball tournament at the IronWorks sports courts here Dec. 9.

The action was fast-paced and nonstop as the Tail Hookers, IYAOYAS-A and IYAOYAS-B jockeyed for control during the tournament.

IYAOYAS-A and the Tail Hookers took to the court in the first round of the tournament.

Both teams went back and forth firing their rubber missiles toward the other team's players. Both teams utilized the strategy of rushing up to the waiting dodgeballs and making quick strikes at the line to get players out. This tactic worked several times throughout the tournament, but teams quickly changed this approach as all saw how quickly their numbers were eliminated in that fashion.

IYAOYAS-A traded blows with the Tail Hookers and won the first match. The Tail Hookers fought back, working ferociously to counter the IYAOYAS-A to come back and tie the series 1-1. The Tail Hookers, in the third game of the first series, took an early lead as they eliminated several players from the IYAOYAS-A team. In their eagerness to score hits, several IYAOYAS-A players managed to turn offense into defense and caught several balls. In turn, they brought more of their teammates back into the fray and sent out the Tail Hookers players in quick succession before taking the win and sending the Tail Hookers to the loser's bracket of the tournament.

"This is a great opportunity for different shops to get together and see each other and have a good time," said Blake M. Chaffin, Tail Hookers player.

The Tail Hookers next took on IYAOYAS-B in another fast-paced match. The matchup between the two teams was similar to the first game with both teams trading blows back and forth with the Tail Hookers taking the win, by a score of 2-1.

The next match was between IYAOYAS A and B. The winner of this game went on to face the Tail Hookers in the final game to take first place.

IYAOYAS-A dominated early by scoring first with a few well placed strikes to its opponents.

Both IYAOYAS teams brought fierceness to the court. Several times throughout the match, both teams' players came close to landing a multitude of strikes. It wasn't until late in the first game of the second round when the tempo increased. Team B did not go quietly, however. It fought back to secure a point to make the score 1-1. Team A was not deterred and went ahead to gain the win, 2-1.

IYAOYAS-A and the Tail Hookers met up once again for the dodgeball championship. The two teams brought more of the same competitiveness they displayed throughout the tournament. Momentum shifted between the two teams several times as both secured a score, tying the game up 1-1. The Tail Hookers went on to win the tournament with a final score of 2-1.

"It felt amazing to come out here and win today for our shop," said Cayden D. Walding, Tail Hookers player. "We pulled it off. I don't know how, but we did."

For some of the competitors, this was their first experience with intramural sports. They said they looked forward to other sporting events.

"I'm new to the Fleet," said Matt D. L. Stover, IYAOYAS-B player. "This is my first time being in an event like this and I enjoyed it. I definitely want to try different sports while here"

Stover also said the competitiveness and fair play of all teams was something that should be commended.

"The other teams were very competitive and they showed it on the court," said Stover.

The beginning of next year will see an increase in group sports as the station gears up for the 2012 Commander's Cup Challenge.



Candice Ho, left, and Bryan S. Otherson, IYAOYAS-B players, wait for the referee to blow the whistle during an intramural dodgeball double-elimination tournament at the IronWorks sports courts here Dec. 9. IYAOYAS A and B fought hard in the tournament, but were not able to put away the Tail Hookers who took first place in the tournament.



Devin J. Ward, Tail Hookers player, narrowly avoids a dodgeball during an intramural dodgeball double-elimination tournament game at the IronWorks sports courts here Dec. 9. The Tail Hookers beat out IYAOYAS-A and IYAOYAS-B to take first place in the tournament. The Tail Hookers were on the verge of defeat several times during the tournament, but fought back to regain the lead. For some of the competitors, this was their first experience with intramural sports and looked forward to other sporting events.

Jingle Bell Jog

December 19

Check-in at 10 AM/Run Starts at 11 AM

IronWorks Gym



Fill the streets with the sound of holiday cheer!

Show off your holiday spirit by running a 1.5K fun run in style.



Live Holiday Music

Lunch Buffet

Prizes & Goodies

Kids' Fun

Face Painting

And Much More



Party Funds for Best Dressed and Most Motivated Units
Gift Certificates for Individual Costume Winners

253-6359 www.mccsiwakuni.com/hp



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