

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 44 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

MAG-12 integrates with ground combat element

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12 prepares to set off for exercise Forager Fury in Guam and the Common Wealth of the Northern

Marianas Islands.

“Forager Fury is meant as a Marine Air Ground Task Force exercise, the focus on the air combat element,” said Col. Christopher J. Mahoney, MAG-12 Commanding Officer. “So, we are

taking the view from a MAGTF perspective. We will integrate with the ground combat element on Tinian, the target range to the north, the refueling area on Tinian, live ordnance training, urban close air support, offensive

close air support on Guam and in addition air-to-air missile shoots, as well as engage surface targets.”

The purpose of Forager Fury is like its counterpart, Geiger

SEE **FORAGER** ON PAGE 3



SGT. JUSTIN PACK
Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines use a saw to breach the hull of a Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Shin Meiwa US-1A seaplane during a training exercise here Nov. 14, 2012. ARFF Marines worked side-by-side station firefighters in the rescue of injured crew members within the seaplane. The six injured crew members were moved from the plane to a field medical treatment area farther down the runway.

ARFF, station firefighters, JMSDF hose down some training

Sgt. Justin Pack
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines raced down the runway, spraying out fires and breaching an airplane’s hull in an attempt to find survivors of a simulated plane crash here Nov. 14, 2012.

The Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force

aircraft, a Shin Meiwa US-1A, was static on the runway for the live-action rescue exercise, which was conducted by 25 Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Marines and 14 Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni firefighters.

“This was the first time training with ARFF, JMSDF, and base firefighters together,” said Takuya Fukii, MCAS Iwakuni Fire

Department Deputy Fire Chief and 27-year fire-service veteran. “We learned a lot from the exercise, such as the importance of the Unified Incident Command System, communication, safety, sharing the ideas of fire and rescue operations, etc.”

SEE **TRAIN** ON PAGE 3

Nation celebrates traditions, culture of Native Americans

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

This November marks the 23rd observation

of National American Indian Heritage Month. Originating Aug. 3, 1990, President George H. W. Bush proclaimed the month of November to be NAIHM. An excerpt

from the bill states, “The President has authorized and requested to call upon federal, state and local governments, groups and organizations and the people of the United


States to observe such month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.”

The month’s designation serves to provide original inhabitants of America

an opportunity to share their culture, traditions and arts with the nation.

According to information from the

SEE **HERITAGE** ON PAGE 3



Commanding Officer/Publisher
Col. James C. Stewart

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Neil A. Ruggiero

Public Affairs Chief
Gunnery Sgt. Bryce R. Piper

Press Chief
Sgt. Charles McKelvey

Operations Chief
Sgt. Justin Pack

Editor
Cpl. Vanessa Jimenez

Combat Correspondents
Cpl. Charlie Clark
Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
Lance Cpl. Cayce Nevers
Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
Lance Cpl. B. A. Stevens

Webmaster
Yukie Wada

Community/Media Relations
Hiroko Soriki
Hiromi M. Kawamoto

Administration
Hiro Sumida

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

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

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

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

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Eat, pray and love’

Lt. Fulgencio L. Legaspi
H&HS
STATION CHAPLAIN

“Eat, Pray, Love” is a story about one recently divorced woman’s search for everything across Italy, India and Indonesia. She spent four months in Italy, eating and enjoying life ("Eat"), three months in India, finding her spirituality ("Pray"), and ended the year in Bali, Indonesia, looking for a "balance" of the two and found love ("Love"). The story was adapted and made into a movie with the same title “Eat, Pray, Love.”

I’ve never seen the movie but I saw part of it in the trailer. I never read the book but read some quotations contained in it. What I am interested with is the three words in the title, “eat, pray and love” which I call “EPAL.”

I consider, EAT-ing, PRAY-ing and LOVE-ing, to be very

important needs in our lives. We eat in order to live. We pray to a higher being in order to ask for guidance, inspiration, strength and help. As we live and keep connected to a higher being, our acts of loving becomes more meaningful and fruitful.

Eating is an important element of our daily lives which we have to take into consideration. Our health depends on what we put into our stomach in it affects the whole system of our body. Our mental capacities are affected by the nourishment of food we eat to function well.

But staying alive is not only by the food we intake. By praying we eat spiritual food to satisfy our spiritual hunger.

Matthew 4:4 says: “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.”

Spiritual readings, yoga, meditation, mental exercises, are examples of praying in action.

According to Father Stephen Cuyos, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart priest, who collected

quotations from the book EPAL quoted this: “You need to learn how to select your thoughts just the same way you select your clothes every day. This is a power you can cultivate. If you want to control things in your life so bad, work on the mind. That’s the only thing you should be trying to control.”

Just as we can control our eating habits to stay fit and healthy, we can also control our minds to be spiritually fit and healthy. When we have self-discipline, there is no doubt that our act of loving is not a problem.

Taking good care of our body and mind is a way of loving which we can project it to love others.

The two greatest commandments as quoted in the scriptures by Jesus are: “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with your entire mind, and with all your strength and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

So eat healthy, pray regularly and love very dearly.

Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony brightens MCAS Iwakuni

Lance Cpl. Cayce Nevers
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Each year, the station hosts a Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at Cherry Blossom Triangle, located next to the commissary. This year, Marine Corps Community Services Special Event Program held the festivities Nov. 24, 2012.

“The Tree Lighting Ceremony marks the beginning of the holiday season for the community,” said Sean McHenry, MCCS marketing director. “It is a time for everyone to get together and share in some of the things that they would share at home.”

Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit attendees of the ceremony. A disc jockey and Matthew C. Perry music program performed holiday favorites. The Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony also offered hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies and prize drawings to those who came out to see the tree light up for the first time this year.

“The significance of the Tree Lighting Ceremony is important because in an overseas environment, we do have the opportunity to be in another culture and see some of those things,” said McHenry. “However, people miss their families. They miss that warm, fuzzy feeling that they get from social gatherings. It is a way for those servicemembers and families to have a little taste of home here.”

The Cherry Blossom Triangle filled with people as the event kicked off.

“This year, we estimated about 600 people were there. Last year, there were probably about 450 people and the year before that there were about 400 people,” said McHenry. “It surpassed what we thought it was going to be. We expected between 400 to 500 people. We were very pleased with the turnout.”

There are many different stories throughout the world of how the Christmas tree came about.

“Regardless of how it started, the lights symbolize the season,” said McHenry. “Even though Christianity is not the dominant religion in Japan, there are a lot of celebrations of lights.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: JONG PARK

Family and friends watch the tree lighting during the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at Cherry Blossom Triangle, located next to the Commissary, here Nov. 24, 2012.

It has become symbolic for this time of year.”

Whether the tree is a religious symbol or is simply for decoration, many adhere to the custom of placing a tree in their homes to celebrate the holiday season.

The station, throughout the holiday season, continues to keep the holiday tree standing at Cherry Blossom Triangle, bringing a little taste of home to servicemembers and families stationed overseas.

FORAGER FROM PAGE 1

Fury, to exercise operational capabilities of MAG-12 in their given theater of operations.

MAG-12 is slated to repair another portion of the legendary runway that the Enola Gay launched from during World War II, and establish and construct a landing pad suited for the deployment and return of rotary wing aircraft.

“We met the combat standard, my goal is to repeat it,” said

Mahoney. “Pro football teams do not go out, win one game, and expect to go to the Super Bowl, they win a lot of games and then go to the Super Bowl. So, with our eye on the Super Bowl, where ever it may be in our theater, or around the world, we are going to keep playing our games at a high level and meeting that standard. So, for Forager Fury, we will do a lot of similar things. We have made it a bit more complex this time, with the targeting, the engagements, with the inclusion

of more of a ground combat element, and we will surge once again at a combat sortie rate, which is not easy. While I am not necessarily interested in beating the combat standard rate, I am more interested in meeting it repeatedly.”

Surge operations are slated to last longer in Forager Fury than during Geiger Fury.

“There will be eighty hours of continuous surge operations,” said Mahoney. “With Hornets taking off, going to the objective

area, expanding ordnance, coming back, refueling, re-arming and going back out again for that 80 hour period. We are going to have a combat sortie pace with about 36 to 40 sorties per squadron in the air. At the end of that, we will see what our strengths and weaknesses are and then start to train to our weaknesses and hone our strengths.”

With the deployment of MAG-12 to the Marianas, or any location around the world, their mission remains the same.

TRAIN FROM PAGE 1

The exercise simulated a crash with hydraulic failure, six people on board and no ordnance. The air traffic control tower initiated the scenario by notifying ARFF, JMSDF, and station fire department. After arriving on the scene, the

simulated fire was put out, victims recovered, and a secondary search commenced followed by a salvage overhaul of the aircraft.

Though ARFF Marines and base firefighters conduct rescue training on a smaller scale, many have not had the opportunity to cut into and practice

casualty evacuations on a Japanese aircraft.

“Exercises like these help in trying to improve our relationship with the base fire department,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Garbutt, ARFF training chief. “We have been working with base fire more now than in the past and we are becoming more

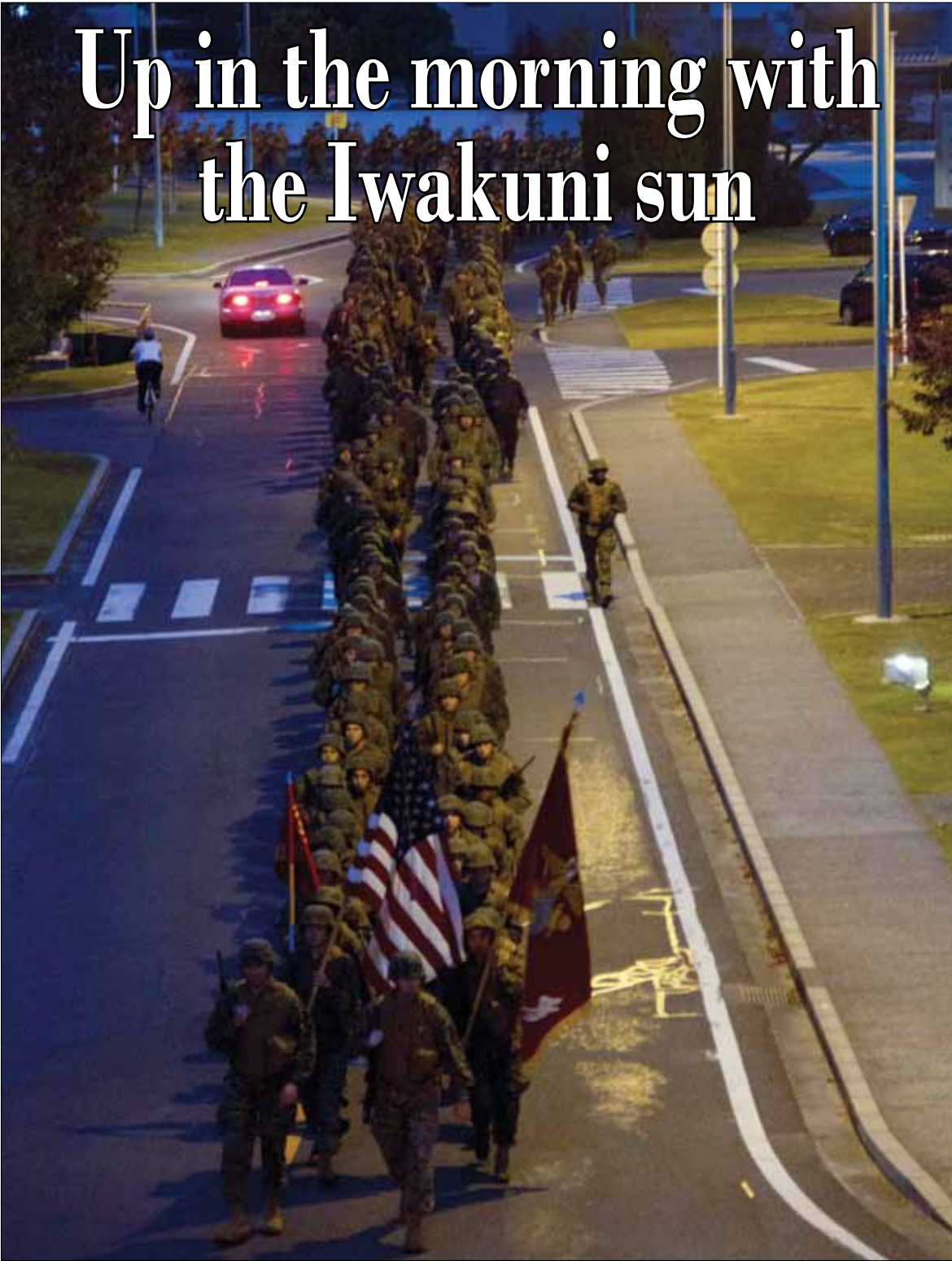
of a team.”

The MCAS Iwakuni firefighters worked side by side with ARFF Marines, assisting with casualty evacuations, also using their equipment to practice cutting into the giant sea-plane.

“It is a good opportunity to skill-up both Marines and Japanese firefighters

to work together, especially the teamwork build-up for emergency response” said Fukii.

Both Garbutt and Fukii said the communication and teamwork displayed on the flight line was impressive and are confident in the team’s ability to work together in case of future situations.



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

Lt. Col. Lance Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Peter Ferral, H&HS sergeant major, lead their Squadron through the streets of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Nov. 10, 2012. H&HS Marines conducted a hike the morning of the Marine Corps Birthday to promote camaraderie and esprit de corps. After the hike, the Marines celebrated the birthday with a cake cutting ceremony.

34 years of naval service

Navy Capt. Moise Willis' journey from enlisted to officer

Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Some servicemembers choose to take the officer's route during their enlisted careers. For one sailor, this decision came 12 years after enlisted service.

"My long-term goal, at the time, was just to become a chief petty officer in the United States Navy," said Navy Capt. Moise Willis, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni officer-in-charge.

Willis enlisted in the United States Navy on June 26, 1978. After completing recruit training in Orlando, Fla., Willis graduated from Hospital Corpsman School in San Diego. Then in 1987, Willis reached the rank of chief petty officer.

"When I made chief so fast, within nine years, that's when I decided I needed to do something else," said Willis.

Willis decided to return to school under the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1988. Willis graduated from Hampton University in Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 1991, and was commissioned as an ensign in the Nurse Corps.

Even though Willis made the switch from enlisted to officer, his motivation to stay in medicine came from an early exposure from

his family.

"As a kid, growing up in Sumter, South Carolina, I had an older brother who went into medicine and became a podiatrist, or foot doctor" said Willis. "I also had an older cousin who would take us to the lab at the University of South Carolina and he was a pharmacy major. So when I joined the Navy, I knew I wanted to do something in medicine and became a hospital corpsman."

Everything in Willis' career was influenced by not only the enlisted personnel he worked with, but from many of his high-ranking officers as well Willis said.

During his career, he had the opportunity to work alongside one of his most memorable mentors, Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, Nurse Corps director.

With 34 years of service and numerous awards, Willis plans to become an admiral and achieve his ultimate goal of becoming the first male nurse admiral in the Navy.

"This is one thing I would tell any person: take advantage of the opportunities given to them, never burn your bridges, and always leave knowing you can reach back," said Willis. "There is no place you can go that you don't know somebody, and your reputation will follow you, regardless of wherever you go."



NAVY CAPT. MOISE WILLIS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVY CAPT. MOISE WILLIS

Petty Officer 1st Class Moise Willis stands proudly by the American Flag posted outside of USS Enterprise at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1986. This was Willis' second assignment in his enlisted career. He was attached to Strike Fighter Squadron 213 as an aviation medicine technician.

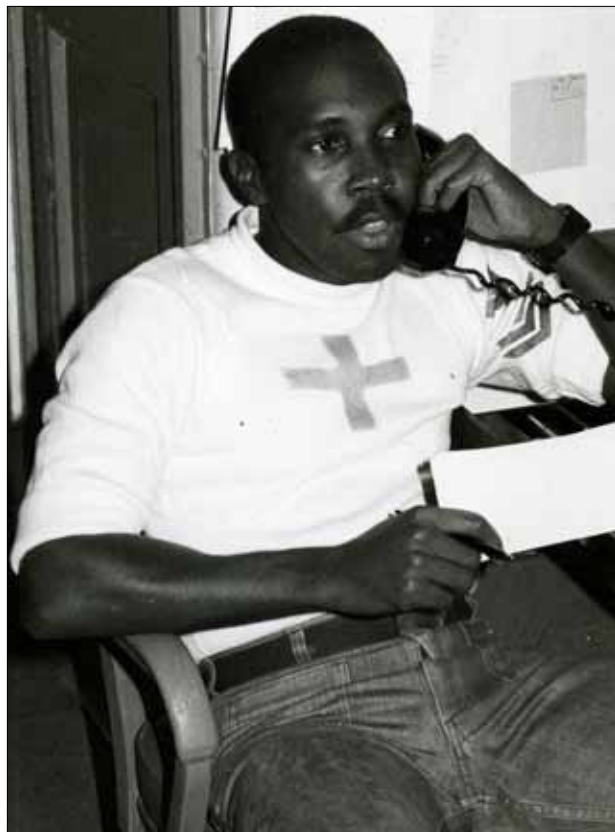


PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVY CAPT. MOISE WILLIS

Petty Officer 1st Class Moise Willis answers the phone in his office aboard the USS Enterprise at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1984. Willis was the aviation medicine technician aboard the Enterprise from 1982 to 1987.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVY CAPT. MOISE WILLIS

Petty Officer 3rd Class Moise Willis is presented a Sailor of the Quarter award in the Branch Health Clinic Pearl Harbor commanding officer's office, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1979. The health clinic in Pearl Harbor was Willis' first duty station in his enlisted career.

SAMURAI FOR A DAY, MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

Sgt. Charles McKelvey
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

One reason Marines may come to Japan is to experience culture and explore its vast history. For some, they do this by visiting local museums and historical monuments. For others, they don authentic Samurai armor and reenact one of the most important battles in Iwakuni City history.

Five station volunteers participated in the Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Nov. 18, 2012. Marines wearing Samurai armor marched through the Kuga streets during a parade and reenacted a dramatic scene which took place in Kuga during the 16th century.

The volunteers first dressed in armor, learned about the battle and practiced lines for the reenactment. After group photos and final preparations were made, the Samurai started their march to the town square.

"I wanted to partake in the parade because of my love of Japan and the essence of the samurai spirit," said Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick, station combat correspondent. "Since I was a kid, I always felt a sense of yearning for the warrior spirit, which in turn, is why I joined the Marine Corps."

The event symbolized the last gathering held by the Kuga Samurai before going to battle against an enemy much larger than their own. Facing defeat and a certain death, the Samurai urged their castle lord to allow them to go into battle and make their last stand in honor.

For many in attendance, this was a way to reflect on local history and honor the warrior spirit of the Samurai. For the Marines, this was a once in a lifetime experience to be a part of Japanese history.

"Being a Samurai for the day, I felt a strong attachment to the Japanese culture and Japanese people," said Karwick. "The best part was after the event when we walked around the fairgrounds in armor. People came up to me saying how great it was to see an American

dressed as a Samurai and taking part in a Japanese ceremony. They were honored that I showed genuine interest in their culture and society."

When the day was over, it was

time for the Marines to turn in their swords and regalia.

The Samurai weapons and armor may be gone, but the memories and lessons learned by the Marines will last forever.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEX

Japanese women parade down the streets of Kuga, Iwakuni City, Nov. 18, 2012, during the Kuragake Castle Festival. The ladies performed a traditional dance wearing Yukatas, a summer version of the Kimono. The dancers were just one part of the festival parade, which featured five volunteers from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEX

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, volunteers stand in formation during the Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City, Nov. 18, 2012. The festival began at the Kuga train station and paraded through the streets of town and ended at the town square. The parade ended with a reenactment of the final meeting for the Samurai before a famous 16th century battle.

Fire-walking ceremony lights up Miyajima Daisho-in



A brazier rests in a corner of the ritual ground for the Hiwatari Shinji, or fire-walking ceremony, which took place inside the Daisho-in, a historical Japanese temple, on Miyajima Nov. 15, 2012. The Hiwatari Shinji occurs twice a year, once in spring and again in autumn.

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A pyre burns in the center of the temple courtyard. Its flames seem to gleam and dance with life as its smoking tendrils grasp further into the afternoon sky. This is the scene of the Hiwatari Shinji, also known as the Buddhist fire-walking ritual.

The ritual starts with monks walking through the courtyard, passing out leaflets with the ceremony name written on them. They then make their way to one of the temples inside the Daisho-in, a

historic Japanese temple located on Miyajima, followed by those attending the ceremony. The monks take their place at the helm of the temple, while the pilgrims gather on the wooden floor, many with pamphlets in their hands, which contain the almost hymn-like chants they will soon echo throughout all of the Daisho-in.

After the hymns are sung, the head monk leads a procession for the pilgrims.

The monks then return to the courtyard and begin preparation for the ceremony.

After each monk walks past the ritual altar, adorned with candles, flowers and offerings, they take up positions surrounding the unlit pyre. Select monks then return to the altar after retrieving several items. The

first monk blesses a bowl of salt, then walks to the four corners of the ritual ground, chanting and tossing the salt into the crowd. This act is mimicked by the following monks, each with a different ceremonial item, such as tree branches, a stave, an axe and a bow.

Once the blessings are complete, the pyre is lit and the monks encircle the growing smoke, running around the thickening smoke with prayer beads.

After the haze clears, the monks then pass out sticks of wood with prayers written by those attending inscribed on them. Handfuls of prayer sticks are thrown into the blaze, releasing the wishes of the pilgrims and granting good luck.

Once the prayer sticks have all been burned, and the pyre left as only charred logs and cinders, the monks

then reach out to the audience, who hand over their bags, wallets, and whatever else they wish to be blessed, by the religious figures.

The head monk then performs the final blessings over the coal path before stomping through the trail of smoking ash and embers. After the head monk, all the other monks follow his path, then everyone else is allowed the privilege. A line of hundreds, stretching to the entrance of the Daisho-in, is formed, and the slow process of having all the pilgrims walk through the ash is carried out.

The monks stand by the sides of the coal path, chanting and blessing all who walk through.

The Hiwatari Shinji occurs twice a year, once in spring and again in autumn.



Buddhist monks perform part of a ritual for the Hiwatari Shinji, or fire-walking ceremony, which took place inside the Daisho-in, a historical Japanese temple, on Miyajima Nov. 15, 2012. After the haze clears, the monks then pass out sticks of wood with prayers written by those attending inscribed on them. Handfuls of prayer sticks are thrown into the blaze, releasing the wishes of the pilgrims and granting good luck.

The head Buddhist monk stomps over dying embers of the pyre during the Hiwatari Shinji, or fire-walking ceremony, which took place inside the Daisho-in, a historical Japanese temple, on Miyajima Nov. 15, 2012. After the head monk, all the other monks follow his path, then, everyone else was allowed the privilege.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

First Operational F-35 Squadron honored in historic ceremony

Capt. Staci Reidinger
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
YUMA

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. — Nov. 20, 2012, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing welcomed its first F-35B squadron during an official ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., home of Marine Aircraft Group 13.

During the ceremony Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121, formerly an F/A-18 Hornet squadron, re-designated as the worlds first operational F-35 squadron.

Celebrating 100 years of Marine Aviation, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing welcomed its first F-35B squadron during an official ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Nov. 20 at 1 p.m.

The squadron also received its second aircraft at the end of the ceremony, BF-20, and its third F-35B, BF-21, later the same day.

The arrival of the F-35B Lightning II, also known as the Joint Strike Fighter, to Yuma signifies the Marine Corps’ forward progress in transitioning the F-35 from a testing and training aircraft to a fully operational tactical aviation capability.

Hundreds of senior military, civic and industry leaders attended the ceremony to mark the next generation of tactical aviation dominance in the Marine Corps to include Arizona Senator John McCain, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, the Under Secretary of the Navy Robert Work and the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos.

“Today marks the beginning of Joint Strike Fighters flying over the skies of Arizona for perhaps the next 50 years,” stated McCain during the ceremony. “That’s another 50 years for the city of Yuma, and the state of Arizona to do their part to help ensure this great nation remains strong and secure.”

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Scott, formerly an AV-8B Harrier pilot, is the new commanding officer of VMFA-121 and is joined by Sgt. Maj. Carlos Williams, as the squadron’s first sergeant major.

Both Marines were hand selected to lead the Marine Corps’ first operational F-35 squadron toward revolutionizing expeditionary Marine air-ground combat power in all threat environments.

The squadron will be home to approximately 300 Marines and is expected to receive additional F-35s throughout the next 8 to 12 months, with a total of 16 aircraft scheduled to arrive by late 2013.

As the Corps’ top leader and a Marine aviator, Commandant of the Marine Corps General James Amos provided words of encouragement and optimism



Third Marine Aircraft Wing's first F-35B taxis in Fri., Nov. 16, 2012, on the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma flightline. Piloted by F-35 pilot instructor Maj. A. C. Liberman, this arrival highlights the official re-designation of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121, an F/A-18 Hornet Squadron, as the world's first operational F-35 squadron at MCAS Yuma. The F-35B accomplishes the multi-role, fifth-generation capabilities needed across the full spectrum of military operations to deter potential adversaries and protect our nation and its interests. Known as the F-35 Lightning II, the F-35B will eventually replace the Corps' aging legacy tactical fleet of AV-8B Harriers, F/A-18 Hornets and EA-6B Prowlers.

about the forward progression of the F-35B program with its first operational basing at MCAS Yuma.

“For the first time in aviation history, the most lethal fighter characteristics, supersonic speed, radar-evading stealth, extreme agility, short takeoff/vertical landing capability, and an impressive array of 21st-Century weapons have been combined in a single platform... the F-35B Lightning II you see behind me,” stated Amos.

“VMFA-121 is at the forefront of one of the most significant transition periods in the 100-year history of Marine Aviation, as we replace nearly every aircraft in the Corps between 2005 and 2025. Certainly, it is the most significant transition in quite some time, maybe since the introduction of the helicopter to our forces in the post World War II 1940s,” Amos added.

Differently from previous fixed wing capabilities across the Department of Defense, the integration of U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and coalition F-35 Joint Strike Fighters will provide the dominant, multi-role, fifth generation capabilities needed across the full spectrum of combat operations to deter potential adversaries and enable future aviation power projection.

Specific to the Marine Corps, consolidating three aircraft into one is central to maintaining tactical aviation affordability and serving as good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

VMFA-121 will now join Marine Aircraft Group 13 alongside four AV-8B Harrier Squadrons, the

first of which is scheduled to decommission by the end of 2013. MAG-13 commanding officer Michael Gough witnessed today the re-shaping of the Corps' fixed wing capabilities.

"This is a tremendous step for Marine Aircraft Group 13 – a huge leap actually," stated Gough. "This amazing new aircraft, coupled with the exceptional Marines and Sailors of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, will showcase Marine aviation's innovative spirit and dedication to unparalleled combat excellence. We are all very proud to be part of such a momentous beginning and look forward to the exciting road ahead."

From MCAS Yuma’s groundbreaking ceremony in mid-2011, marking the air stations preparation for the arrival of its first F-35, to today’s event, Col. Robert Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma’s commanding officer, is proud of the shared commitment to excellence witnessed to make today a reality.

“We here on the air station, and throughout Third Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Corp Installations West, are so fortunate to have the support of the people of Yuma, our elected officials, and the workforce that is making this program a reality,” stated Kuckuk. “We could not have accomplished what we have done to date without their support and assistance, not to mention the very hard work that they have provided since the very idea of bringing this airplane to Yuma was first mentioned. This day is as much about the relationship the Marines have with the city and county as it is about a milestone

in Marine Aviation.”

As new F-35s flow into the area over the next several years, MCAS Yuma will continue to refine its infrastructure to support additional F-35 squadrons, prepare its ranges and facilities for a full range of combat training operations and will lead the Marine Corps in evaluating the employment and advancement of the F-35B.

“The next step is to continue to build on the progress we saw this afternoon. Facilities need to continue to be built to include the auxiliary landing field on Barry M. Goldwater Range-West so the pilots can train for shipboard operations and the communication links need to be completed and tested,” stated Kuckuk. “All of this will be in support of the Marine Aircraft Group 13 pilots that will train to take this airplane to war.”

VMFA-121 is now setting the pace for the F-35 program based on a common platform.

The U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps can integrate best practices from VMFA-121 in preparation for the future operational basing of the F-35A and F-35C.

(Marines of VMFA-121) “Marines... the eyes of the world are upon you. I know that everyone one of you are up to the challenge of making this aircraft successful, relevant and operational,” stated Amos. “We will take things slow. We will do things the right way and in the end, you will deliver to our nation its very first 5th generation, operational combat squadron. It will exist for one purpose only...to defend America and its interests.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Pass & Registration
The Pass & Registration Office, Building 608, will close Thursday afternoons for administrative processing.

Lending Locker Program
The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check out items, and the program is by appointment only. The lending locker is located in Building 411, Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder
Put these numbers in your wallet and phone:
• Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837).
• Life, limb or loss-of-vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.

• For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.
• Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual

Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans
The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

Jobs

Baggers Needed
The commissary is accepting applications for baggers. Applicants must be 16 years old or older. Baggers work a variety of hours and shifts. Applications can be picked up at the Commissary.

Brief and Classified Submissions
To submit a brief or ad, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information to be published. Submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Provide all requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

FREE!

Saving Abel

DECEMBER 4, 8 PM
CLUB IWAKUNI BALLROOM

AUTOGRAPH SESSION
DECEMBER 4, 12:30-1:30 PM
MARINE LOUNGE
SINGLE/UNACCOMPANIED ONLY

Call 253-3727 for details.

KUNI TOONS: WIFEY MAYBE?



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
Mon. — Thurs.	11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Protestant	
Sunday	10:30 a.m. Protestant Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Meeting 1 p.m. Contemporary 5:30 p.m. FLOW (Youth Group)
Monday	7 p.m. Men's Bible Study
Tuesday	9 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	10:30 a.m. Ladies' Tea 5:45 p.m. AWANA (Bldg. 1104)
2nd Saturday	7:30 a.m. Men's Discipleship
Bahai	
Sunday	11 a.m. Bahai Meeting

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

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



Samurai were the pre-industrial Japan warrior class. Samurai means “to serve” and so they did for the regional lords of Japan. The carrying of two swords, the long bladed katana and the short blade called a wakizashi, kept the samurai ready for battle both indoors and outside. Samurai followed a set of philosophical rules, which came to be known as bushido or “The way of the warrior.”

Fighting for their honor and that of their lord, samurai would battle to the death if called upon. If a samurai dishonored himself or his lord he would commit seppuku, the ritual to regain honor by passing into death. This philosophy set the example for the lower ranking samurai. By the end of the 12th century, samurai were a well-established nobility class throughout Japan. The samurai were in decline during the Meiji-era.

In favor of a more western-style and more modern army, Emperor Meiji abolished the samurai's right to be the only armed force in 1873. Much of the Imperial Army officer class was of samurai origin as abolished samurai volunteered as soldiers and advanced to officer ranks. The history, philosophy and myths of samurai inspired many movies, T.V. shows, cartoons and still live on through many martial arts' teachings.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, November 30, 2012 7 p.m. Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 10 p.m. Lawless (R)	Monday, December 3, 2012 7 p.m. Resident Evil: Retribution (R)
Saturday, December 1, 2012 4 p.m. Wreck it Ralph (PG) 7 p.m. Taken 2 (PG-13)	Tuesday, December 4, 2012 Theater closed
Sunday, December 2, 2012 4 p.m. Hotel Transylvania (PG) 7 p.m. Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13)	Wednesday, December 5, 2012 Theater closed
	Thursday, December 6, 2012 7 p.m. Taken 2 (PG-13)

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.

This week in Samurai sports

The Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai wrestling team is slated to participate in their first wrestling meet of the season against the Robert D. Edgren High School Eagles at Misawa Air Base Dec. 1, 2012.

The Matthew C. Perry Samurai High School Samurai and Lady samurai varsity and junior varsity teams are slated to play against the Marist Brothers International School Bulldogs, from Kobe, in their first home game of the season at M.C. Perry basketball gym Dec. 1, 2012.

The Samurai are scheduled to play at 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Lady Samurai are scheduled to play at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

MARINE CORPS FACT

Identification tags serve an administrative function, so they are not addressed in the Marine Corps Uniform Regulations. Marines are required to have one tag suspended from the neck, and the other tag as the commander prescribes. Medical tags must be worn at all times. Specific regulations for identification tags may be found in Chapter 7 of MCO P1070.12, Individual Records Administration Manual (IRAM).



Alma Dickenson, Health Promotions Director, explains the course of the Great American Smoke-out Fun Run here, Nov. 15, 2012. Smokers spend an average of \$3,500 a year on cigarettes with a single pack costing between \$5 to \$7 a pack. IronWorks Gym offers several classes to help smokers quit the habit of smoking, including a four-week cessation class.

SMOKING: Put out the temptation

Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The IronWorks Gym hosted the Great American Smoke-out Fun Run here Nov. 15, 2012, as a way to promote smoking cessation. According to the Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Active Duty Military Personnel Survey, it defines “any smoking” as the percentage of military personnel classified as cigarette smokers in the past 30 days and who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. In the DoD Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Active Duty Military Personnel 2005, 32 percent of active-duty military personnel smoked as compared to just 20 percent of the U.S. population. According to data from the same survey in 2008 survey,

30.6 percent of active-duty military personnel smoke as compared with 29 percent of the civilian population.

Out of the active-duty military personnel who participated in the survey, Marines exceeded all other branches of the military and the civilian population.

“It’s not just a matter of putting the cigarette down and walking away from it,” said Alma Dickenson, IronWorks Gym Health Promotions Director. “They’ve got to come up with a plan on how they’re going to get through it.”

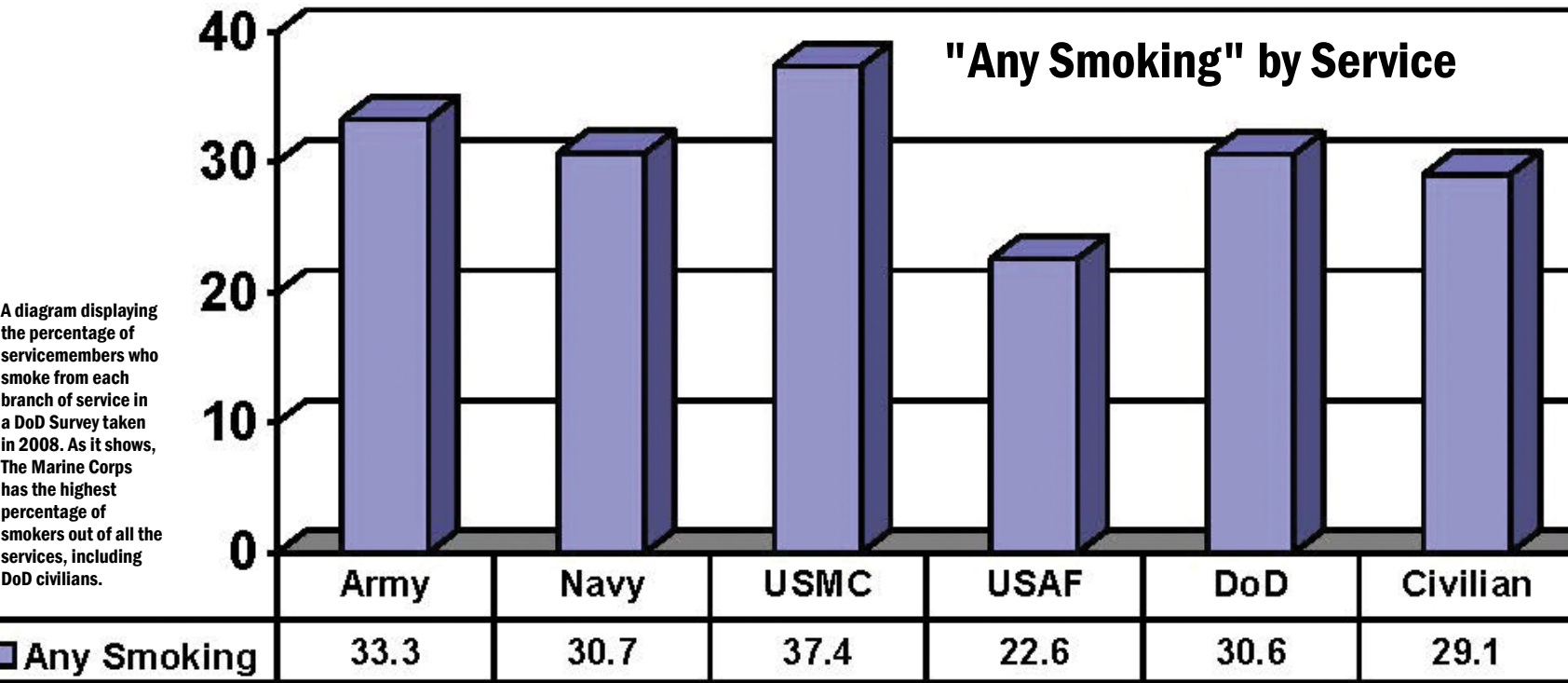
IronWorks Gym offers several programs to help smokers kick the habit, including a four-week smoking cessation class to help smokers get over their first few weeks of quitting. The class also gives participants an outlook of how many times they smoke as a daily routine.

“People know the health risks that are associated with smoking,” said Dickenson. “What they don’t know is that impacts their ability to PT at the level that they need to.”

Getting in shape isn’t the only benefit of quitting. It can help put money back into their wallets.

According to a December 2009 article posted on Health.com, website for Health magazine, smokers who quit saved an average of \$3,500 a year, with cigarettes costing anywhere from \$5 to \$7 a pack.

As hard as it is, there are plenty of ways to help get over the habit of smoking. According to determinedtoquit.com's 101 things to do besides smoking, running in place is just one thing that may distract the urge to smoke. Support to quit smoking is available on base, whether it’s a class being held at IronWorks Gym, or support from family.



The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Nov. 25, 1983, issue of "The Torii Teller," Marines reported on 208 years of service provided by Navy chaplains; the employment of the UC-12B, which replaced the C-117 "Hummer," aboard the station; and several units and individuals aboard the station who earned nine Good Deed Commendations for helping the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force when a PS-1 crashed here April 26, 1983.

H&MS-12 Masuda clean-up

9 units/individuals awarded commendations for their efforts

Working with handicapped children, civil clean-up and assisting the PS-1 crash, earned nine 1983 Nippon Zenkokai Association Good Deed Commendations for units and individuals here.

Representatives will attend commendation ceremonies tomorrow at the Sanshu-Den Hall of the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo.

The majority of the awards will be received for assistance rendered to JMSDF, when a PS-1 crashed and burst into flames April 26.

Det. C, Operations, Branch Clinic, PMO, Maj Brian McMullen and Capt Skip Samad were cited for their actions during the PS-1 accident.

"On behalf of the department, I feel very appreciative and proud," said Maj Steve Bennett, provost marshal here. "Receiving a commendation for not only the PS-1 crash but for the annual Futashika ("water hole") clean-up represents our effort to support the Iwakuni area both internally and externally."

H&MS-12 also received a commendation for their assistance in helping clean-up Masuda City after it was seriously damaged by torrential rains July 23.

"We are delighted to receive the commendation



SSgt Dave McGinty

but, we didn't go to Masuda to receive any recognition," said LtCol Gary Roser, commanding officer of H&MS-12. "The Marines involved responded to a call for help from our mamasan, Machiko Hamamoto because it was the Christian and neighborly thing to do."

MAG-12 was recognized for its Christmas party for the children of the Jonan-Gakuen, a home for physically and mentally handicapped children in Tabsue Town.

MABS-12 also received a good deed commendation for their picnic and cookout held Aug. 31 at the Jonan-Gakuen.

—SSgt Dave McGinty



Cpl Thomas J. Dick



SSgt V.L. Brundage

MABS-12 Jonan-Gakuen visit PS-1 crash, April 26