

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 5 Vol. 8 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

An MV-22B Osprey flies over Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 8 as an F/A-18D prepares to taxi during Exercise Cobra Gold 2013. In its 32nd iteration, CG13 is a multinational exercise that promotes regional prosperity, security and cooperation among partner militaries. The Osprey is with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force and the Hornet is with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st MAW, III MEF.

## Station residents partake in Mardi Gras festivities inside Hornet's Nest

Lance. Cpl. James R. Smith  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors danced, ate and laughed as they celebrated Fat Tuesday with Mardi Gras Night, hosted by the Single Marine Program at the Hornet's Nest here, Feb. 12, 2013.

"This is the first time we did a Mardi Gras night," said Pamela Young, SMP Hornet's Nest administrative assistant. "We planned this back in May and decided a Mardi Gras Night would be a good idea. It was a coincidence that we planned it on Fat Tuesday."

Participants were able to chow down on free food, register in games for prizes and dance to the music.

"I've never been to a Mardi Gras or anything like it before," said Lance Cpl. Michael Bowyer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 intermediate-level

technician. "I'm from Virginia, so it was a new experience for me. The food was great and the music was good too."

In addition to the food, there was a pool tournament as part of the games, where Seaman Corey

SEE **MARDIGRAS** ON PAGE 3

## Tune up your personal life with MCCS

Lance. Cpl. James R. Smith  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services' Health Promotions hosted "Tuesday Tune Up" at the Crossroads Mall here, Feb. 12, 2013.

Some items in everyday life require a tune up after a certain period of time. Cars and computers are two of these things,

but what about a tune up on one's personal life?

The Tuesday Tune Up offers information on health, ways to update ones social calendar and what events are happening on base.

"It's a great way to get this information all in one place," said Andrea Aguirre, MCCS Health

SEE **TUNEUP** ON PAGE 3

## M. C. Perry hosts culture-sharing performance

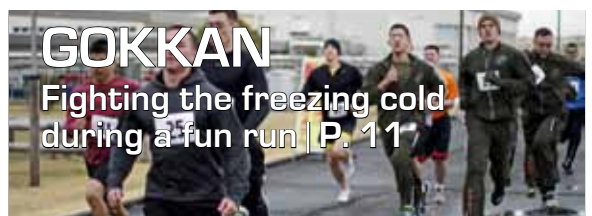
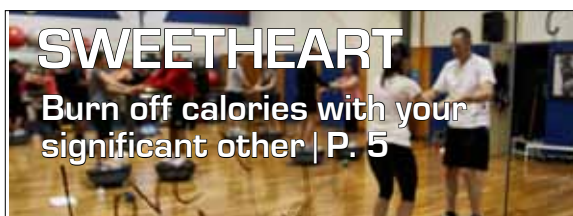
Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Shunan International Children's Club groups performed at the Matthew C. Perry High School gym here, Feb. 11, 2013, for a culture-sharing event.


This was the third time the club performed at the M.C. Perry High School.

"The school has done this for the past three years," said Chris Kimmey, M.C. Perry elementary music teacher. "It's always a great thing to bring Japanese culture to our students and have them engaged in it. I have only been here for two performances, but they are a wonderful group and it is great having them

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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.*

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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## Too close for comfort?

Lt. Alexander J. Cho  
MWSS-171 SQUADRON  
CHAPLAIN

When I asked Marines and sailors what the benefits are for serving in the military, I got a wide array of answers: serving my country, a steady paycheck, a sense of purpose, a chance to see the world. The list goes on and on. While I cannot argue with any of those answers, I would argue that one of the best benefits of serving in the military is camaraderie. What, camaraderie? Let me explain.

Every Marine and sailor here is a part of something. We are part of the one percent who proudly serve our country. We belong

to a group, a squadron, company and a section we are proud to be a part of. We do physical training with our section. We eat with our section. We go on training exercises with our section. We go to work every day with our section. We spend a lot of time with our section. While spending time does help build camaraderie, it is only one component of it. The other is love. John 13:24 states, “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” In this simple commandment from Jesus, we are able to see the complex beauty of what Jesus did for us and how we should live. Jesus Christ came into this world and bore the punishment for our sins on the cross for one reason, love. He spent time with beggars,

sinner and prostitutes for love. He performed miracles for love. He died for you for love. Jesus Christ was the ultimate servant, mentor and sacrifice because he had love for his people. We need that same kind of passion and commitment. We are already spending all our time with our fellow Marines and sailors, why not cherish that time. Out of love, we should be serving each other and ensuring that we all succeed. Out of love, we should be making memories and building camaraderie.

Serving in the military is not easy. There is a reason only one percent of the U.S. population serves their country. Be proud of that. I challenge you to not only serve, but enjoy the time you spend with your fellow Marines and sailors out of love.

# CREDO

Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation

## Marriage Enrichment Retreat

07-09 March, 2013  
Kure Hankyu Hotel



A beautiful beachside retreat for married couples. This retreat is designed to assist couples in communicating effectively and harmoniously with each other, providing new perspective and insight to help build a stronger relationship between spouses. Take time to strengthen the foundation of your marriage while spending quality time with one another in a stress-free environment.

Space for 15 couples. 8 Spaces will be reserved for E-5 and below. Childcare is not provided.

Sign-up begins February 1st



For more information contact RP2 Suiter at Station Chapel at 253-3371. Deadline for Registration is March 1<sup>st</sup>.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Students from the Shunan International Children's Club performs a karate demonstration during a cultural exchange event inside the Matthew C. Perry High School Gym here, Feb. 11, 2013.

### SHUNAN FROM PAGE 1

here.”

Kimmey also added that the groups who performed were beautiful and the performance of ‘It’s A Small World,’ really helped the kids relate to the music.

The event is meant to give the students a better understanding of Japanese culture, with performances such as traditional martial arts “Karate”, classical Japanese

dance “Nihon-buyo”, a samurai dance, and various other skits and musical performances demonstrated by the club.

Masaki Ishikawa, Shinnanyo High School music teacher, said the reason he enjoys performing for Americans is because American children are honest, while Japanese children are more reserved and don’t express themselves as much as American children in regards to how they are feeling or if they liked something or not.

“Before we performed at the school, we came to perform at a culture festival on the base,” said Masaki. “Now we really enjoy performing for the children here. We always look forward to coming back and always hope that we will be invited again in the future.”

Ishikawa also added that he would like to return to M. C. Perry and continue building ties with Americans, saying music is a universal language we all speak and we are united through it.

### MARDIGRAS FROM PAGE 1

Evans, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic 11th Dental Company dental technician, won the overall tournament.

The second competition involved king cake, which is a Mardi Gras tradition.

King cake is a cylindrical cinnamon-type cake topped with icing and covered in the colors of Mardi Gras: yellow, green and purple. Inside every cake is a small baby figurine.

“My fiancé lives around the New Orleans area and gave us information about the king cake,” said Young. “We then decided that whoever found the baby in the cake would win a prize.”

Once the tournaments and games concluded, Marines and sailors continued to party.

“We had really good turnout,” said Cherielyn Detimmerman, SMP Hornet’s Nest operations assistant. “We plan on doing this again. Next time, we’re going to advertise it some more and make it a bigger event.”



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Gumbo with beans served at Mardi Gras night held at the Hornet's Nest here, Feb. 12, 2013. Single Marine Program hosted the event with free food, games and music. Participants were able to enter tournaments and win prizes throughout the night.

### TUNEUP FROM PAGE 1

Promotions assistant director. “You can come here once a month and get up to speed on what’s going on around the air station with all the different programs and services.”

The event occurs the second Tuesday of every month with each month pertaining to a different topic. For February, the topic is heart health. Next month’s tune up is planned to focus on

nutrition, since March is National Nutrition Month.

Along with the abundant supply of information, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic offered free blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings.

“When we get the results, we write them out and give them to the participants,” said Navy Lt. Jillian Schuch, Branch Health Clinic nurse educator. “Then we interpret their results, whether they’re high or low, and provide

them suggestions on how to improve them.”

Schuch also said the Tuesday Tune Up helps medical staff see people who normally don’t go to the clinic and give them free screenings and information.

“The free blood and cholesterol screenings are great because civilians have to pay for that at the clinic,” said Aguirre. “It can get expensive if you’re trying to track from month to month.”

Many Marines, sailors and

civilians eat at the Crossroads daily. It’s free to stop at the Tuesday Tune Up and is a great way to know where one’s health standards stand at. It can show if one is making healthy choices with their lives.

No matter how old someone is, knowing where one’s health stands is important. By making the right choices now, it can get easier to make those same choices in the future.



# The legend of Yasuke

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The month of February is synonymous with Black History Month. Every year, the most popular Black figures are discussed, showcasing how they helped make a difference to those around them and across the world. Whether Harriet Tubman, Fredrick Douglass, or the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the contributions of those who are of African descent are numerous and well-known.

But what of those not so well known? This is the legend of Yasuke.

Some aspects of Yasuke are substantiated. Others muddled through the ages, becoming the basis for legend. The possibility of an African slave as the first of his kind in Japan is indeed somewhat true.

Yasuke, means, "the black one," in Japanese. He's been erroneously given the name of "Kuru-san," which is highly unlikely as the word "-san" wasn't used during that period of Japanese history.

He was a slave who traveled to Japan with members of one of several Italian missionary groups that arrived in Japan in 1579.

No one knows where Yasuke came from. Some unsubstantiated claims say he came from Mozambique, others say somewhere in the Congo. It is almost certain he was from somewhere in central or western Africa as that was the region where most slaves came from.

Yasuke found himself at a somewhat peculiar time in history not only for himself but also involving the world. Two separate yet unique world events took shape during the time of his arrival in Japan. The Transatlantic Slave Trade hit its stride. While the slave trade boomed in western and central Africa and the New World, political and social upheaval was taking place across Japan, with warlords vying for control of the country, during the Sengoku Period. This was soon brought to an end by the steeled determination and military decisiveness of Oda Nobunaga, the Japanese warlord who laid the foundation for the unification of Japan.

Another unsubstantiated claim is Yasuke was the first person of African descent to ever set foot in Japan. If so, he was probably a sight to behold. Reports state Yasuke's skin was as dark as an ox, surprising to the Japanese. He towered over those around him, even the Italians, as he was rumored to stand between 6'3" to 6'5".

There are conflicting reports as to how old Yasuke was when he arrived. Some say he was just a boy of 16 or 17. Others sources claim he was 26 or 27.

In fact, he created such a sensation that the news of this dark-skinned foreigner reached the ears of even Nobunaga himself, who requested

Yasuke's presence to his castle. When Yasuke appeared before Nobunaga, the warlord forced him to strip and scrubbed him vigorously as Nobunaga believed his black skin was painted on.

Yasuke intrigued Nobunaga the more he spoke with him. The tales of this fantastical land he came from were surely appealing to the warlord. He supposedly was very intelligent and understood the basics of the Japanese language so Nobunaga requested the missionaries leave Yasuke with him for a time.

Though Yasuke was Nobunaga's "servant," or vassal, it was a step up from before when Yasuke was seen merely seen as property and a beast of burden. Yasuke had a set of standards he probably never encountered before. He ate not only at a table with the other Japanese but often ate with Nobunaga and his family and received money from Nobunaga and his brothers, either Oda Nobukane or Oda Nagamasu. Nobunaga was also impressed with Yasuke's great strength.

Yasuke was not just a novelty item for Nobunaga. He allowed Yasuke to don Samurai armor and weapons during several instances of battle. This is truly impressive as traditionally only those born into samurai families could become samurai, let alone wield their weapons and wear their uniforms, regardless if they were warriors elsewhere.

Though he was now considered a free man by most standards, he did not own any land of his own. He was essentially a samurai in name only.

After Nobunaga allowed Yasuke to live with him for more than a year, Akechi Mitsuhide, one of Nobunaga's most trusted generals, betrayed Nobunaga at Honno-ji and forced him to commit Seppuku, or ritualistic suicide.

When Yasuke received the news of Nobunaga's death, he immediately withdrew to Nijo Castle, the home of Nobunaga's heir, Oda Nobutada. Sometime later, an attack by Mitsuhide's forces followed as well. Yasuke fought alongside Nobutada's warriors and only surrendered his sword when the last of Nobutada's warriors did likewise.

When asked what to do with the former slave, Mitsuhide dismissed him as an afterthought, saying Yasuke, and those of the same hue as him, were animals and as he was not a true samurai, not worth killing. With that, Yasuke was taken back to Kyoto to the Jesuits. This is, regrettably, the end of Yasuke's tale. No one knows what became of Yasuke after he returned to the missionaries. He faded into obscurity, his true story lost to time. He may have earned his complete freedom and traveled back to his homeland. He may have stayed in Japan, or he may have returned with the Jesuits. It is uncertain at this point. But this is the story of Yasuke, the first "Afro-samurai."



ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL R. BONDORC  
An artist's illustration of Yasuke, an African slave who traveled with Italian Jesuit missionaries when they arrived in Japan in 1579. Legend has it Yasuke caused such a commotion upon his arrival people came in droves and clamored over one another to see him. He was rumored to have stood between 6'3" and 6'5" tall, towering over the Japanese and even many of the Italians. Tales also stated he was either 26 or 27 years old, and stronger than 10 men. After traveling with the missionaries for a time, Oda Nobunaga, the famous Japanese warlord, asked the missionaries that Yasuke be left with him for a time as he was intrigued about the African's homeland. Legend has it he was made a samurai in title only but was also said to have traveled with Nobunaga in full regalia and armaments.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK  
Elle and Nick Watson, Sweat With Your Sweetheart participants, pass a weighted ball back and forth during the Sweat With Your Sweetheart workout at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 13, 2013. Couples were challenged to venture away from the norms of dinner and a movie for an early Valentine's Day sweating it out during couple's exercises.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Barbara and Abe Roman, Sweat With Your Sweetheart participants, punch a punching bag during the kickboxing portion of the Sweat With Your Sweetheart workout at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 13, 2013. During the workout, couples participated in three separate aerobic workouts meant for fun as well as a good cardio.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Chris Thomas and Kathy Vargas, Sweat With Your Sweetheart participants, stretch during the yoga portion of the Sweat With Your Sweetheart workout at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 13, 2013. Aerobics instructors found that holding the event a day early from Valentine's day attracted more participants.

## Sweethearts who sweat together stay together

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents celebrated Valentine's Day early in the IronWorks Gym aerobics room here as station residents worked up a sweat with their special someone in the Sweat With Your Sweetheart workout Feb. 13, 2013.

The workout combined three different cardio aerobic classes designed for partners to work together.

"I thought it was great," said Barbara Roman, Sweat-With-Your-Sweetheart participant. "This year, we had a lot more participation than we normally have. I think all the couples had a really great time."

The event was not meant to just be a workout, but also a fun bond-building exercise.

"We shared a lot of laughs and that was the whole idea to come and celebrate Valentine's Day in the heart-healthy way instead of your typical dinner out or chocolates," said Roman. "This is a healthy way to begin Valentine's Day and connect

with your partner."

Though the event is annual, many of the instructors have never taught this particular class before.

"I am the normal kickboxing course instructor," said Sayaka Takabayashi, Sweat-With-Your-Sweetheart aerobic kickboxing instructor. "It's a very good event and compared to last year we had a much better turnout. I think it is because we did it the day before Valentine's Day. Having it a day before allows couples to sweat together during a workout, then do something sweet on Valentine's Day itself."

With so many different exercises and workouts, it was difficult for the participants to pick out their favorite portion.

"I think my favorite part was watching my husband try to be flexible. It was all fun, but my personal favorite was the kickboxing," said Roman.

Sweat With Your Sweetheart is an annual event hosted aboard station and always occurs in close proximity to Valentine's Day.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Couples perform Yoga poses during the yoga portion of the Sweat-With-Your-Sweetheart workout at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 13, 2013. During the workout, couples participated in three separate aerobic workouts meant for fun as well as a good cardio.



# VMFA(AW)-224 aviation ordnance, backbone for F/A-18D mission

Lance Cpl. Todd F. Michalek  
COMBAT CAMERAMAN

**NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Kingdom of Thailand** — Aviation ordnance Marines with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 (VMFA(AW)-224) work around the clock to ensure jets are ready to fulfill their mission for Exercise Cobra Gold 2013 at Wing One Royal Thai Air Force Base, Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 18.

"Our work revolves solely around the flight schedule," said Cpl. Andrew Welliver, an aviation ordnance technician and quality assurance safety observer with VMFA (AW)- 224.

Ordnance Marines work grueling shifts because their job revolves around the flight schedule. These long shifts though, make ordnance Marines one of the closest-knit groups in the Marine Corps' air wing.

"If you compare the workload we have with any other shop in the air wing, we have double the work because not only do we have to complete our normal workload, we have to configure everything for the flight schedule the next day," said Welliver. "It's

one of the reasons ordnance sticks together and have the camaraderie we do, because the flight schedule has so many moving parts, we work through it together and try to make each other better."

The purpose of VMFA (AW)-224's involvement in CG 13 is for the F/A-18D pilots to drop ordnance while conducting bilateral training with RTAF pilots. Assuring the pilots are able to complete this mission rests on the backs of the ordnance technicians. Their job, however, entails more than just loading ordnance onto the aircraft.

"We also check the weapons systems in the jets, repair and replace gear on the jets that help drop the ordnance as well," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Lynch, an aviation ordnance technician with VMFA (AW)- 224.

Loading ordnance onto aircraft requires a lot of know-how as the F/A-18D can support many types of ordnance.

"The F/A-18D is a versatile weapon, which is good, but it can make the job intimidating sometimes because there's a lot of ordnance we can load on it," said Lynch. "We also take a lot of

pride in our job because we can put anything on the jet, and we can deliver."

Getting a solid grasp on the job isn't easy and can take a new Marine some time to get used to. The hardest part of the job is understanding the seemingly endless nuances there are to making the aircraft and ordnance work in unison.

"If you have a guy who is fresh out of the schoolhouse you literally have to guide him step by step," said Welliver. "You take for granted what you know when you've been doing the job for a while. You can teach a new guy everything they need to know, but without the application of that knowledge, it doesn't mean a whole lot."

The mistakes of a new Marine can set a shop back, sometimes for hours, causing unexpected problems loading and quality checking the ordnance. While mistakes cause setbacks, they are expected with new Marines and give everyone the opportunity to learn something that will get them out of a jam in the future.

"I actually love days like that because it means we're all going to learn something, and learning

in our job is essential," said Welliver. "Knowledge gained can be the difference between spending two hours versus thirty minutes working on something."

Because ordnance is very hands-on, the chance to sharpen one's craft and learn something new is always available.

"Ordnance is one of those jobs where you never stop learning," said Welliver. "Even if you are the best ordnanceman, you'll still be able to learn something."

The ongoing learning process is something ordnance Marines take a lot of pride in. To be well-rounded in their profession and to help those who are learning improve is also very important. In doing these things, Marines are fulfilling CG 13's primary objective of strengthening our military-to-military cooperation with Thailand. But what this means the most to these Marines is knowing they've done their job as well as it could be done.

"It's very rewarding when you see the jet going out with all the ordnance you put on yourself," said Lynch. "When the jet comes back and the pilot says, 'That missile you loaded hit target perfectly, good job', I really take a lot of pride in that."



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

An F/A-18D Hornet takes off at Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 8 during Exercise Cobra Gold 2013. CG13, in its 32nd iteration, is a multinational exercise that promotes regional prosperity, security and cooperation among partner militaries. Thailand and the U.S. are committed to working together in areas of common interest for the betterment of regional security. The F/A-18D is with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

Cpl. Issac Lindner, left, removes a captive air training missile from an F/A-18D during exercise Cobra Gold 2013 at Wing One Royal Thai Air Force Base, Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 17. CG 13 is the largest multinational exercise in the Asia Pacific. The Marines are with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Before sunrise, aviation ordnance Marines load a Guided Bomb Unit 12 onto an F/A-18D to be used later that day as a part of bilateral training with Wing One Royal Thai Air Force pilots during exercise Cobra Gold 2013 at Wing One Royal Thai Air Force Base, Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 17. CG 13 is a multilateral exercise and develops multinational solutions to common challenges. The Marines are with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



## CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND  
SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

## 1st MAW brings smiles to Thai Children's Home

Lance Cpl. Todd F. Michalek  
COMBAT CAMERAMAN

**NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Kingdom of Thailand** — U.S. Marines and sailors visited the Thailand Children's Home in Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, during a community-relations event Feb. 9 prior to the start of exercise Cobra Gold 2013.

The community-relations event was planned by U.S. Marine Capt. John Helm, CG 13 Live Fly Cell officer in charge with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, in coordination with Thai personnel from Wing One Royal Thai Air Force in Nakhon Ratchasima.

"I've been to the children's home in the past, and I felt that the children needed some help," said Helm. "My wife and I decided earlier this year that we wanted to do a community relations project here."

1st MAW and Wing One supported the project and provided what was necessary to make the project happen.

"We talked to the representatives of the Live Fly Cell and were able to get them to pitch in some money," said Helm. "We received donations and were able to purchase clothes, toys and lunch."

Before the project, Helm, his wife and others

from the Live Fly Cell purchased more than enough food to feed the nearly 25 children they would visit. They also brought clothes, school supplies and toys.

When the U.S. Marines arrived, they were welcomed by Julaporn Eurwisawakul, director of the Thailand Children's Home.

"I would like to thank the participants of Cobra Gold very much," said Eurwisawakul. "They visit and give to us often, and they help make the children happy."

After spending time with the children during lunch, the Marines distributed the donated goods to the children. Among the other items were soccer balls, basketballs, Frisbees, towels, diapers and hygiene supplies.

The donations help Eurwisawakul carry out her mission of serving the kids and gave the children a chance to make some new friends.

"The children are always excited when Americans come," said Eurwisawakul. "They are excited when they bring food, toys and get to play with them."

Eurwisawakul has been director of the children's home for more than 30 years, and while donations are greatly appreciated, she has done excellent work on her own.

"I take care of children until they are finished with high school," said Eurwisawakul. "When they complete high school, I raise money for

them to go to a four-year university. In return, they come back and help me raise the children who are in grade school and high school." Giving these children a good upbringing is a major point of pride for Eurwisawakul, but something else that gives her a great source of satisfaction is that she provides the children with a wholesome upbringing.

"Every Sunday, I take the children to church," said Eurwisawakul. "My husband is a preacher, and he teaches them the Bible."

While the purpose of CG 13 is to promote regional prosperity, security and cooperation among partner militaries, providing for the basic human needs of the local population is just as essential in forming these relationships. Community-relations projects and humanitarian and civic assistance projects support the needs and humanitarian interests of our friends and partners.

Thailand and the U.S. have enjoyed 180 years of strong relations. The two nations are committed to working together, which makes community relations projects essential to growing and strengthening that partnership. "This is my last year at 1st MAW," said Helm. "I hope in the future that my predecessors come back to the Thailand Children's Home to provide toys, clothes or build something to add to these children's quality of life."



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

Palw, a child at the Thailand Children's Home in Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, prays before eating her meal Feb. 9. The meal was provided by U.S. Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing before the start of exercise Cobra Gold 2013. The visit was part of a community relations event to help meet the basic needs of our Thai friends and partners. CG 13, in its 32nd iteration, is a multinational exercise that promotes regional prosperity, security and cooperation among partner militaries. 1st MAW is part of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

## Briefs

**Substance Abuse Prevention**

If you or anyone you know is struggling with substance abuse or for more information on services provided, please contact the Substance Abuse Counseling Center at, 253-4526 or visit Building 411 Room 219.

**CREDO Okinawa**

CREDO Okinawa is scheduled to be in the Iwakuni area hosting a Marriage Enrichment Retreat at the Kure Hankyu Hotel March 7-9, 2013. Sign up begins Feb. 1. There is room slated for 15 couples; eight E-5 and below, seven E-8 and above. For more information, contact Petty Officer Second Class Raymond Suiter at 253-3371 or raymond.j.suiter@usmc.mil.

**Off-limit Establishments**

The following establishments in Iwakuni and Hiroshima are hereby off-limits:

- The multi-tenant building "NOW." Tenant occupant's names change frequently. Past names for this building include Ran, Massage Parlor, Welcome American, Follow Me and F-18.
- Hiroshima's Tougan Goods Company.
- Spice Ecstasy
- 4-4 Nagarekawa, Naka-ku Hiroshima City, Japan
- Buri Buri Nomi
- 1-18 Horikawa-cho, Naka-ku Hiroshima City, Japan
- Joint
- 3-22 Yayoi i-cho Naka-ku Hiroshima City, Japan

**Like To Draw?**

The Iwakuni Approach is looking for artistic people with a sense of humor to submit cartoon

drawings. If you are interested, bring your drawings by the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216. Public Affairs approves editorial content for cartoons published each week.

**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.

**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 submit your community brief or classified advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please provide all the requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for all submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.

**Free Admission**  
入場無料

All Six School Participation

M.C. Perry High School  
米軍横須賀合同地区高  
M.C. Perry Elementary School  
米軍横須賀合同地区小  
Iwakuni Municipal Kawashimo Elementary School  
国公立川島小  
Iwakuni Municipal Marifu Junior High School  
国公立御幸小  
Otake Municipal Otake Junior High School  
大竹市立大竹中  
Suo-Oshima Town Municipal Wada Elementary School  
周防大島町立和田小

**U.S.-JAPAN Friendship Concert in IWAKUNI**  
日米交流合同コンサート

Sat, 2 Mar 2013, 2:00pm  
Doors Open at 1:00pm  
Sinfonia Iwakuni 1F Concert Hall  
3-1-1, Waka-machi, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi-ken

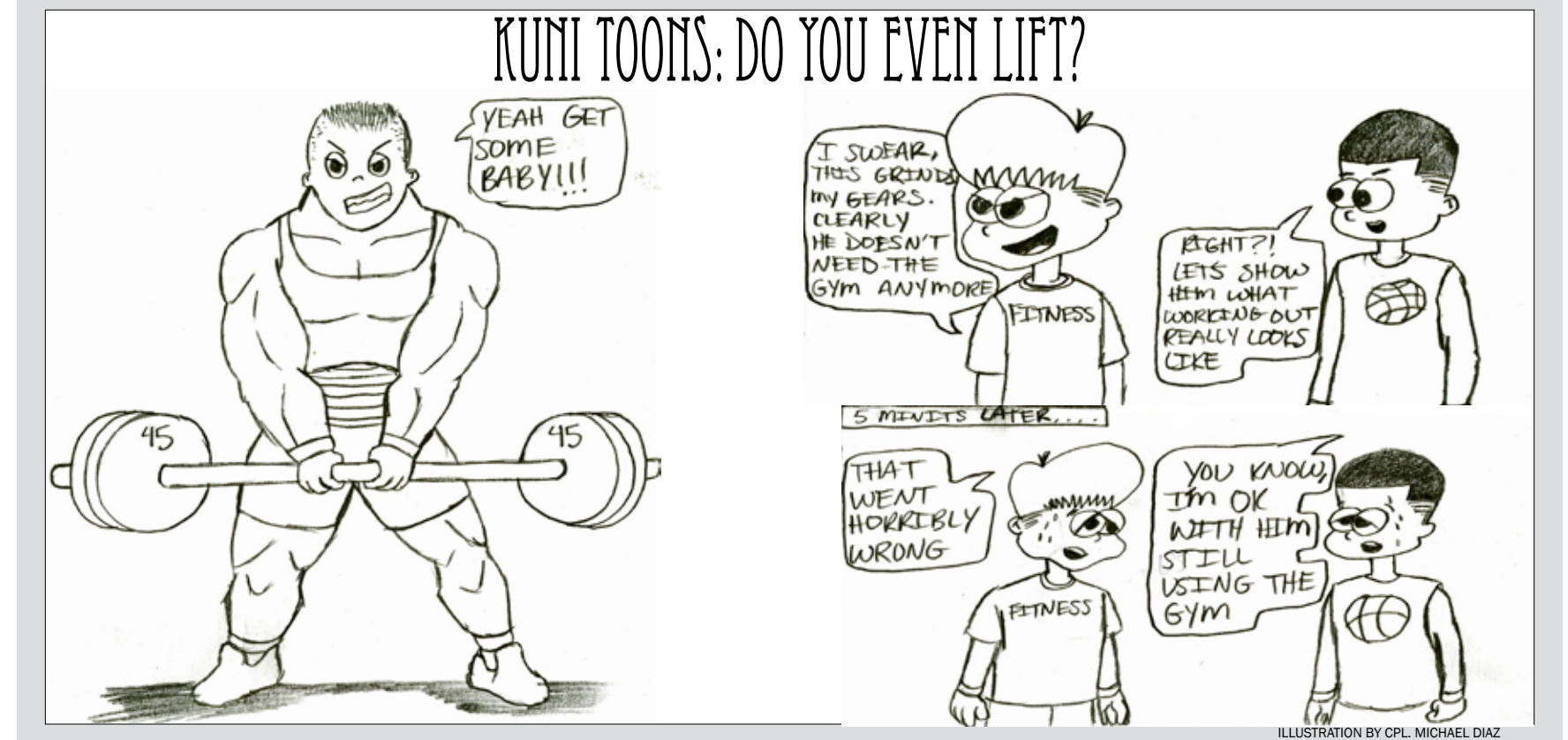
**Access**

- About 10 minute walk from JR Iwakuni Station.
- About 5 minute walk from Mikasa Bridge bus stop.
- About 20 minutes by car from JR Saenryu Shinkansen Shin Iwakuni Station.

To avoid traffic congestion, please use public transportation.

[POC] Local Coordination Division, Planning Department, Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau / Tel 082-223-7153

Sponsored by Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau. Sponsored by Iwakuni City, Iwakuni City Board of Education and MCAJ Institute.  
Sponsored by Yamaguchi Prefecture, Otake City and San-Oshima Town. Sponsored by Defense Facilities Environmental Improvement Association and Japanese American Society.





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 5 p.m. Working Women 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.

OUT AND ABOUT : Japan

OHINASAMA AND DOLL EXHIBITION

When: Feb. 23- March 3  
Where: Iwakuni Castle Town, Iwakuni City  
What: The opening time varies with each store at the Kintai Bridge area. Many old hina dolls from past generations at the castle town area will be displayed. For more information, contact "Iwakuni Sakura-no-kai" at 0827-41-2318.

SHIMONOSEKI HEIKE HINA-NAGASHI (FLOATING PAPER DOLLS DOWNRIVER)

When: March 3  
Where: Akama Shrine, Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi Prefecture  
What: This is a Shinto ritual to commemorate the Heike Family, who perished at the battle of Dan-no-ura, Shimonoseki City. After the Kyokusui no Utage (making-poetry party at the stream in a garden), the handmade hina dolls will be floated into the Kanmon Straits. This is a spring tradition at Shimonoseki. Free admission. For more information, contact Akama Shrine at 083-231-4138.

For more information on upcoming events visit our website at <http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/News/LocaleventInformation.aspx> or visit Information Tours and Travel located in the Crossroads Mall or call 253-4377.

SAKURA THEATER

<b>Friday, February 22, 2013</b> 7 p.m. Zero Dark Thirty (R)	<b>Monday, February 25, 2013</b> 7 p.m. Django Unchained (R)
<b>Saturday, February 23, 2013</b> 4 p.m. Parental Guidance (PG) 7 p.m. Django Unchained (R)	<b>Tuesday, February 26, 2013</b> Theater closed
<b>Sunday, February 24, 2013</b> 4 p.m. Monsters, Inc. (G) 7 p.m. Identity Thief (R)	<b>Wednesday, February 27, 2013</b> Theater closed
	<b>Thursday, February 28, 2013</b> 7 p.m. Identity Thief (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check [www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura](http://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](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



Yamaguchi Prefecture is a Japanese prefecture in the Chūgoku region on Honshū island. The capital is the city of Yamaguchi, in the center of the prefecture. The largest city, however, is Shimonoseki. The Chugoku mountain range runs from East to West, and Yamaguchi Prefecture can be divided into three regions: the Seto Inland Sea area, the inland mountain area, and the Japan Sea coast area. Yamaguchi Prefecture has a mild climate and enjoys the reputation of being a very comfortable place to live. The population of Yamaguchi is approximately 1.49 million people. Yamaguchi has approximately 930 miles of coastline, including the Seto Inland Sea National Park with many islands and the coast of the Japan Sea at the Kita NagatoKaigan National Park. There are around 240 islands throughout the coastal and off-shore areas. The green, mountainous plateau situated at the western edge of the Chugoku Mountain Range comprises the largest Karst plateau and limestone cave in Japan, which make up the Akiyoshidai National Park. Yamaguchi receives many visitors who come to see the changing seasons in the forests and beautiful gorges that make up the Western Chugoku Mountain Range National Park. For more information on places to see and visit in Yamaguchi Prefecture please visit the website <http://www.visit-jy.com/english/>.



Station residents begin running during the Gokkan two and a half kilometer Fun Run, which took place on the seawall behind the IronWorks Gym here, Feb. 15, 2013. Participant categories for the race included men's, women's and strollers. The run, which takes place here annually and always during February, ensuring the coldest temperature, gets the name Gokkan from the word gokukan, which literally translates to "extreme cold."

Station residents run for fun during Gokkan 2.5 kilometer race

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

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni residents competed in the Gokkan 2.5 Kilometer Fun Run, which took place on the seawall behind IronWorks Gym here, Feb. 19, 2013.

While the approximate one and a half mile run was free for all base personnel, and focused mainly on bringing residents together for some enjoyable mid-day exercise, a winner still needed to emerge. Michael Gutschmidt was the victor of this year's Gokkan Fun Run, with a time of 8:39. Gutschmidt said it felt good to win, but the competition from the other athletes pushed him to try harder than he expected.

Marine Corps Community Services SemperFit Division hosts multiple runs throughout the year, ranging from shorter runs such as this, up to marathons in Japan. "I think events like this are great, not just for me, but for everyone," said Gutschmidt. "Maybe you wouldn't have the motivation to go out and run a marathon in Hagi, Japan, but if it's here, then you have more of a

reason to do it. It's much more accessible."

With the running occurring during routine lunch hours, one shop of Marines took it as the perfect opportunity to foster unit cohesion.

"This shows them the bigger picture," said Patrick Burgess, Gokkan participant. "Going out and doing things like this builds up the legacy the Marine Corps has; large to small unit leadership going out, training with their Marines and building camaraderie. It's not something so strenuous that you're killing them, but at the same time, they're building their self confidence in what they can do, and through that, they can start shaping their leadership skills. The old dogs aren't going to be around forever, and (these Marines) are the future of the Marine Corps."

Burgess also said it is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to shape and mold the Marines of the future.

The run, which takes place here annually and always during February, ensuring the coldest temperature, gets the name Gokkan from the word gokukan, which literally translates to "extreme cold."



Michael Gutschmidt, Gokkan two and a half kilometer Fun Run participant and overall winner, crosses the finish line for the event, which took place on the seawall behind the IronWorks Gym here, Feb. 15, 2013. The race path guided participants from the seawall ramp beside the obstacle course to the back of the gym, then doubling back toward the Monzen Bridge twice before racing down the ramp and finishing inside the parking lot by the obstacle course.



# *The Iwakuni Time Machine*

In the Feb. 25, 1977, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on Maj. Gen. Noah C. New becoming the 45th commander of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and the 22nd commander of the Third Marine Amphibious Force and U.S. citizens paying a higher Japanese road tax the coming April.



**MORE PAPERWORK** — LCpl. Mary F. Lyons, PMO training NCO, types a training roster for March.



**NOW WHERE DID HE GO?** — Cpl. Carlos Sanders, postal clerk, checks the alpha roster for the correct address of misdirected mail.

## Station selects best among NCOs, Marines



**A LITTLE MORE HERE** — January's NCO of the Month, Sgt. A. Ray Henley, GEMD shop supervisor, makes an adjustment on a teletype printer. (Photos by Cpl. R.W. Penland)

Sgt. A. Ray Henley, GEMD shop supervisor, and Cpl. Carlos Sanders, postal clerk, were selected as the Air Station's NCO and Marine of the Month, respectively, for January.

Sgt. Henley's selection as NCO of the Month was based on his professional skill, devotion to duty and qualities of leadership.

Cpl. Sanders' exceptional knowledge of postal operations and his leadership performance were instrumental in his being selected as Marine of the Month. He was meritoriously promoted to corporal as a result of his selection.

February's NCO and Marine of the Month have also been named. Sgt. Jess R. Spradley and LCpl. Mary F. Lyons were honored with the coveted awards.

As a guard at the correctional facility, Spradley's consistently superior performance of duty, personal conduct and military bearing resulted in his selection as NCO of the Month.

Through her exceptional knowledge of PMO operations, outstanding performance as training NCO and professional competence, Lyons was selected as Marine of the Month.

To attain the titles of NCO and Marine of the Month, each Marine was nominated by his work section and then appeared before a selection board that picked the best qualified.



**SECURITY CHECK** — Sgt. Jess R. Spradley, PMO correctional facility guard, makes a routine security check during his watch. Sgt. Spradley's exceptional knowledge of his job won him NCO of the Month honors.