

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 13 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Station residents support Iwakuni's landmark bridge | Pg. 6 & 7

## VMFA-122 arrives in Iwakuni

Lance. Cpl. B. A. Stevens  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, known as the Werewolves, stationed out of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., arrived in Iwakuni early February for the unit deployment program. The Werewolves hit the ground running and quickly departed to Kadena Air Base, Japan.

"We are supporting the unit deployment program as tasked by Marine Corps Pacific and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, serving under (Marine Aircraft Group 12) as one of the three F-18 squadrons that are required to be on station here at Iwakuni," said Lt. Col. Wade E. Wiegel, VMFA-122 commanding officer.

Just weeks after landing in Iwakuni, VMFA-122 wasted no time practicing their critical mission capabilities.

"We focused primarily on our

close air-support mission skill, that is obviously critical if required," said Wiegel. "We also created a couple section leads, which was needed and those section leads are actually in work now getting experience as section leads and beginning their work up for the fighter attack instructor certification that will happen in May."

A section lead is a pilot who is capable of being responsible for two aircraft on a single mission.

Units stationed in Iwakuni also got the opportunity to work with the Werewolves.

Wiegel said the squadron worked closely with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, who had the responsibility of running the hot pits, which are a form a tactical refueling where the engines are still running as the aircraft receives fuel.

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## Station stresses importance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Cpl. J. Gage Karwick  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Uniformed Victim Advocates diligently take necessary steps to ensure the issue translates to station residents to raise awareness of the topic.

"April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month," said Sharon Adams, Installation SARC. "We are definitely involved 12 months out of the year, but April is the designated time when we try to bring even more awareness to the problem of sexual assault."

Several initiatives currently exist to raise sexual assault awareness throughout the station.

"We are going to have 'Sex Signals,'" said Adams. "Sex

Signals' is an acting group that Headquarters Marine Corps has paid to come around to all the installations, and what they do is perform some of the common things about sexual assault. They go through several scenarios that are very common in dealing with sexual assault."

In order to teach ways to make sexual assault a thing of the past, SARCs and UVA representatives plan to provide awareness training to all ranks.

"We will have guided discussions and stand-downs with each unit," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Doreus, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation platoon commander and MWSS-171 UVA representative. "We are taking steps on elaborating more on the theme of the month. We

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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

## 'Embracing the joy of the Easter season'

Lt. Fulgencio L. Legaspi  
H&HS STATION CHAPLAIN

We are in the season of Easter and there is gladness and joy in the air. Easter falls in springtime, when there are many festivals around the world like the Sakura festival of Japan, the Holi festival of India, a free-for-all water fight in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Jazz Fest in New Orleans, chase-the-cheese race of Gloucestershire, U.K. and numerous Easter egg-hunts on Easter Sunday.

Spring connotes the ideas of the joy of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth. We can see in nature, the flowers bloom, plants come back to life and birds building nests. Springtime is a chance to experience the joy of lengthening daylight hours.

The day Jesus returned from the dead marks the start of Easter season. With that, let our hearts rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus, who promised us new life. Easter is a time of rejoicing because we have completed our spiritual journey through Lent.

In the Easter Vigil celebration, the night before Easter Sunday, the Easter Proclamation known as the "EXULTET" is sung: "Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!"

Sound the trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound

with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!" I like the line "Darkness vanishes forever! The risen Savior shines upon you!" How lucky we are because Jesus dispels the darkness in our lives and we receive his light.

There is a reason for us to be happy. "Happy indeed because we are the Easter people." We proclaim our joy just as the psalmist does: "I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands, calling on your name. My soul shall be sated as with choice food, with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you! I think of you upon my bed, I remember you through the watches of the night You indeed are my savior, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me (Psalms 63:5-9)."

## BASE-WIDE POWER OUTAGE

The air station will experience a base-wide power outage from April 5 at 10 p.m. to April 6 at 8 a.m. The power outage is required to perform maintenance on the station's electrical substation, which is the only connection with the local power

company. Dry ice will be distributed to family housing April 5 from 5-8 p.m. at the parking lots of midrises 1209 and 906. Barracks residents may retrieve dry ice from the barracks 203 parking lot during the same time.

## Road Tax Due April 2013

**You must have your title to pay tax**

Support the campaign, pay April 1- April 30

**All payments must be made in yen**

### Heavy Vehicle Information

**Plate:**  
100Y  
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E  
329Y, 330Y, 331Y  
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y, 529Y,  
530Y, 531Y, 500E

more than 4,501cc —  
less than 4,501cc —

### Cost:

¥ 32,000  
¥ 22,000  
¥ 19,000  
¥ 7,500

### Plate:

50A, 40A, 580A  
YAMA A, B  
IWAKUNI A, B, C

### Cost:

¥ 3,000  
¥ 1,000  
¥ 500

■ April 24 through 26, tax collectors from the city will be at the Provost Marshal's Office pass-and-registration section for heavy vehicle owners to pay their tax on station from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

■ Heavy vehicles can otherwise pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Parking is free in the rear of the building.

■ Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to the pass and registration section of the PMO building, to receive your new base decal:

- Japanese title, secondary insurance, the vehicle or motorcycle, Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), SOFA license and AFID card, recycling fee receipt and new road tax receipt.

■ Light Vehicles and motorcycles owners will pay road tax on the second floor of City Hall located across from the police station from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Validated parking is free.

■ Maps to the new Symphonia building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO pass and registration section. For any other questions, contact pass and registration at 253-3135.

■ To avoid the long lines of the "last-minute rush" at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal early in April.

■ April 30, the PMO pass and registration section will only process 2013 Road Tax registration and licenses. No other business will take place during this time.

**Failure to pay road tax can result in the impoundment of your vehicle.**

## Single Marine Program offers opportunities to see Japan despite tighter liberty policies

Lance. Cpl. B. A. Stevens  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Servicemembers at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni are feeling second and third-level effects caused by a few servicemembers' poor decision-making. These include new rules on liberty partner requirements, curfews and prohibition of alcohol off base. The Single Marines Program is stepping up its game in an effort to provide even better support to Iwakuni Marines.

"When the curfew first kicked in, we had a Fukuoka trip scheduled that we actually had to cancel because people were so confused as to whether they could stay off base, needed special liberty, or

had to take leave," said Pamela Young, SMP administrative assistant. "It's one of the only major trips we've ever had to cancel."

After the cloud of confusion cleared, Marines understood leave wasn't necessary for SMP trips. The requirements vary based on units, but both SMP representatives said they have never heard of anyone having to take leave except for the five day SMP Tokyo trip.

"We're trying to promote that just because you can't drink out in town, this is still an excellent opportunity for servicemembers to get off base and see things," said Young.

Cherielyn Detimmerman,

SMP operations assistant, said the Single Marines Program is a better alternative than just staying on base and drinking during the restrictions.

Young also said the SMP is trying to create a home-away-from-home in an effort to mentally reduce the distance between a Marine's home and Japan.

"The amount of small events we host really increased when the restrictions set in because we wanted to give the Marines a wide verity of things to do, since they are stuck on base a little more than usual," said Young.

Young said she thinks it's important to have a variety of things to do, so the SMP has something everyone can enjoy.

"We also try to better the quality of life for Marines here in Iwakuni," said Young.

The SMP welcomes suggestions and encourages Marines to share any ideas they have.

Home-cooked meals and barbecues are some of the most popular suggestions.

Although the restrictions may deter some from leaving base, Marines still have the opportunity to be proactive about the unique situation of being in Japan and make an effort to take advantage of trips and events the SMP offers.

Servicemembers interested in learning more about the SMP can visit the Marine Lounge above Crossroads Mall or the Hornet's Nest on the northside of base.

## Werewolves prepare to go beast mode during UDP rotation

WEREWOLVES FROM PAGE 1

Being away from home gives the Marines of VMFA-122 the opportunity to work with some unfamiliar faces.

"The last week, we worked closely with (3rd Reconnaissance Battalion) to get them close air support for their Joint Terminal Attack Controllers."

The unit executed its assigned task so far, but being so far from

home presents its own set of challenges for VMFA-122.

"Moving to different locations enforces an expeditionary mindset," said Sgt. Maj. James R. Hagle, VMFA-122 sergeant major. "You can't bring all your bells and whistles all over the world. This ensures we bring only what's needed to fight and maintain our aircraft."

VMFA-122 is working diligently

to keep their weathered aircraft in the sky.

Working on the old aircraft has made the opportunity for liberty slim, but the unit is trying to experience Japan while they can.

Wiegel went on to say that the sergeant major of the unit is working with Marine Corps Community Services and Information, Tours and Travel for a professional military education trip to Hiroshima.

The Werewolves are also coordinating with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron to reward the Marine of the quarter, noncommissioned officer of the quarter and meritorious promotions to Mt. Suribachi.

The Werewolves are slated to remain in Iwakuni for the next several months before heading to Alaska in support of exercise Northern Edge.



An F/A-18 Hornet aircraft prepares for take off aboard Kadena Air Base March 23, 2013. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, normally based out of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., is currently assigned under the unit deployment program to Marine Aircraft Group 12 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. VMFA-122 is with Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

AWARENESS FROM PAGE 1

more on the leadership aspect of sexual assault tends to be just given to more junior Marines. So, we are making it more of a command-wide type activity."

Some of the highest military and civilian echelons recognize the directives taken

will spend more time focusing

throughout the month of April and ensure paramount focus on the matter of sexual assault.

"The commandant and DOD have made it a priority to bring attention to sexual assault," said Doreus. "It is a problem, and we need to bring everyone together and raise our awareness to it. It's not a pretty subject. As Marines, we like to think that we are warfighters. We go out and get the bad guys,

but amongst us, there are predators and people that look for different, weaker victims and opportunities."

UVA representatives will make their way across the station to participate in social interaction with station residents, at times, going from person to person, to better educate them on sexual assault awareness.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Station residents eat and talk during a cookout by the baseball field located in front of Building 1 here, March 29, 2013. The cookout was hosted by the station chow hall, with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society participating for fund-raising. Another cookout took place in the parking lot of Building 5780 adjacent to the control tower March 28.

## Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society gears up for fund drive, provides rear security for families

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society kicked off its Navy and Marine Corps-wide 2013 Active Duty Fund Drive March 15, 2013. The NMCRS is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1904, established and designed to aid sailors and Marines who experience emergencies.

"The Navy-Marine Corps relief Society is geared toward active-duty servicemembers, their eligible family members, as well as retired servicemembers and their eligible family members," said Deanna O'Neal, NMCRS Iwakuni office director.

The society offers several assistance programs for servicemembers who experience unexpected hardships.

"We provide interest-free loans for emergencies or urgent critical needs,"

said O'Neal. "We help out in situations for emergency transportation. So, when someone gets a Red Cross message and they need airfare home for transportation, we provide that."

Servicemembers may expect to see NMCRS representatives around base in the upcoming weeks as they get the word out.

"We'll have information booths where people can donate," said O'Neal. "The (NMCRS) will also be at a lot of the base events coming up in the next few weeks. We will be at the Health and Fitness Expo, and we'll be at the Month of the Military Child Celebration."

The society also raised awareness when both the northside and southside mess halls served food in the parking lot of Building 5780 and the baseball field next to the parade deck.

Residents may give as much or as little of a donation as they wish.

"There is no minimum," said O'Neal. "We are

encouraging servicemembers to do ten dollars a month. That's just an encouragement. People can also do one-time contributions. Both of those can be done on (Marine Online)."

"This is a way for Marines to help Marines," said 1st Lt. Andrew R. Smith, Headquarters Squadron NMCRS representative. "You shouldn't feel obligated to give more than you think you should."

Smith also added though he never had need for the society, there were Marines under his charge who did, citing an example when one of his junior Marines was in financial straits many years ago. Smith sat him down and advised him how the society can help young Marines in such situations.

Contributions to the society totaled more than \$20 million in 2012, with the society expending nearly \$65 million that same year. The fund drive is scheduled to end April 30.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Station residents stand in line to get food during a cookout by the baseball field located in front of Building 1 here, March 29, 2013. The cookout was hosted by the station chow hall, with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society participating for fund-raising. The station NMCRS office is located inside the station chapel.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment operators replace the dirt they extracted practicing to build fighting positions and anti-tank trenches at the Haramura training area near Hiroshima during Exercise Thunder Horse, March 17-22, 2013. Weather added difficult obstacles for operators, as vehicles would get stuck in the mud and clay.

## MWSS-171 heavy equipment Marines refine skills during Thunder Horse

Lance Cpl. James R. Smith  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Heavy equipment operators from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 capitalized on the opportunity to practice using their heavy equipment at the Haramura training area near Hiroshima during Exercise Thunder Horse, March 17-22, 2013.

The Marines practiced digging 14-foot trenches and individual fighting positions in an open field near the main campsite.

"The techniques from the training weren't just meant for practice," said Staff Sgt. Jose Camberos, MWSS-171 heavy equipment operations chief. "It gives the Marines an understanding of how their equipment works and the ways to move dirt. When the Marines leave the schoolhouse, they don't get the opportunity to dig anti-tank ditches and fighting positions."

Along with combat-oriented digging, Marines earned experience assisting others digging trenches around tents with backhoes instead of using entrenchment tools.

"Digging the trenches helped me to get a better feel for the backhoe,"

said Lance Cpl. Austin Blodgett, MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator. "It added valuable stick time, which is when we get behind the controls and earn time practicing."

With extended periods of rain throughout the training, mud and clay made operations more difficult for the Marines. It escalated to the point where even vehicles with all terrain tracks were getting stuck.

"Earth-moving is very specific when it comes to the material," said Camberos. "If the material is too dry, it will crumble away. If it's too wet, vehicles tend to get stuck. We had the dozer get stuck, and that rarely happens."

Aside from moving dirt and mud, Camberos also explained what his concept of the training was truly about.

"What I mainly look for when I train them in earth moving is the Marines understanding what they're doing and not just moving dirt," said Camberos. "If Marines don't know the correct process for digging a fighting position, it would become a counterproductive process."

With the Haramura training ground providing conditions for valuable teaching periods, the Marines leave not as experts, but more experienced in their profession.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Sgt. Matthew Faus, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 lot foreman, supervises a Marine operating a 120M Grader at the Haramura training area near Hiroshima during Exercise Thunder Horse, March 17-22, 2013. The exercise gave Marines the opportunity to operate several machines and perform tasks they couldn't in Iwakuni.

# Station residents help keep Kintai-Kyo clean



(Left) Cpl. Anthony Moore and Pfc. Oleksander Radayev, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 administration specialists, pick up trash during the Kintai Bridge cleanup, which took place next to the bridge March 23, 2013. Participants were given rubber gloves and plastic bags before being sent out to collect all the trash they could find.

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

“Seven years ago, Mama-san (Machiko Hamamoto, honorary Marine) a lance corporal and a captain came and picked up trash here,” said Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain.

Recently, 137 station residents participated in a cleanup of the Kintai Bridge area.

“The bridge is such a huge icon of this area and for us to be involved and help clean it up and interact with the Japanese people, I think it’s a really good thing,” said Wallingford. “We want to engage with the Japanese people and we want them to know that we appreciate them as our host nation and we respect them. Just because they have heard some negative things, that isn’t who we are. The majority of us really love the Japanese people and love being here.”

Good Samaritans donned rubber gloves and carried plastic bags during their pursuit of trash and debris while taking in sights of the blossoming cherry trees.

“Within the next week or two, they’re going to have the cherry

blossoms viewing, so picking up the trash and making the area look really nice for that is a way we can engage in the community,” said Wallingford.

Marines, sailors and family members spanned the sidewalks next to the Kintai Bridge, down below the wooden beams and even by the waterside.

After they disposed of the trash, participants seized the opportunity to visit local food stands and souvenir shops during “hanami,” translated into cherry blossom viewing.

“It felt pretty good to help out the community. We got a lot of smiles from a lot of different people who were happy to see us here,” said Lance Cpl. Brian Mayo, cleanup participant. “There was this guy with a dog who ran up to both of us and took a picture with us.”

Wallingford said there is also a possibility of going to the beach south of town for more cleaning projects.

The station chapel conducts multiple community relation events monthly, which include cleanups, visiting local schools to teach English, and more. Those wishing to participate in such events should call their unit chaplain or the station chapel.



Kintai Bridge cleanup participants look for trash around the road next to the bridge during the event, which took place next to the bridge March 23, 2013. Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain, said 137 people participated in the event.



Cpl. Steven Timmons, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron special intelligence systems administrator, picks up trash during the Kintai Bridge cleanup, which took place next to the bridge March 23, 2013. Participants used rubber gloves and plastic bags while venturing out to collect all the trash they could find.



Kintai Bridge cleanup participants look for trash around the road next to the bridge during the event, which took place next to the bridge March 23, 2013. Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain, said 137 people participated in the event.



Kintai Bridge cleanup participants place trash in a designated area next to the bridge during the event, which took place next to the bridge March 23, 2013. Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain, said 137 people participated in the event.

# CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

## ANA Kandak commander leaves big impression

Sgt. Bryan Peterson  
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

### FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOW ZAD, Afghanistan

— Sitting in a meeting room here March 18, Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Shirali Noori spoke to his Marine counterparts, taking brief pauses between his words to hide his emotions. "I report to Jalalabad in four days," said the saddened Shirali, commander of 4th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps. Captain Nicolas Rapkoch, a U.S. Marine advisor with 4th Kandak, 2/215th Corps Security Force Assistance Advisor Team, and fellow Marines on his team were shaken and without response. For three months, Rapkoch worked alongside Shirali and developed respect and admiration for his counterpart.

Shirali commanded the 4th Kandak for three and a half years, moving with the unit from Delaram and Sangin districts and finally settling in Now Zad district. His new assignment will take him northeast to command 4th Kandak, 4th Brigade, 201st Corps. Throughout Rapkoch's time at Forward Operating Base Now Zad, he advised Shirali and his staff daily and watched Shirali improve security in the district while developing his officers and enlisted soldiers.

Rapkoch, a Tacoma, Wash., native, quickly realized Shirali's leadership was critical to the kandak's success. After hearing the news of Shirali's new assignment, Rapkoch spent the rest of the day wondering how he would tell the other members of his advisor team. He wondered

if the new kandak commander would be as respected by the ANA soldiers and the Afghan people.

"It was a sad moment for us, because we really enjoyed working with [Shirali]," Rapkoch said. "We became emotionally attached to him because he and his guys treated us like family." Shirali's leadership in the district helped create a safe environment for people living within its boundaries, said Rapkoch. Shuras, or town hall meetings where Muslims air their grievances and discuss issues, were almost unheard of before the 4th Kandak arrived. Now elders come to the district center regularly to discuss ways the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan can help the people there.

During the last three months, Shirali and his soldiers conducted two major clearing operations in and around the district. Rapkoch accompanied Shirali on the missions to meet with local elders while operations were underway. "Despite the shooting going on around him," said Rapkoch, "he was able to remain calm even when he knew the people he was talking with might have been protecting the enemy.

"It's evident when he speaks, people are listening to him and want to follow him," Rapkoch added. "He knows his troops will go anywhere he directs them to go and the enemy also knows that. And he wants the people [in Now Zad] to know of his good intentions."

Shirali has spent most of his life at war. His experience as a tank commander during the Soviet invasion and as a freedom fighter during the Afghan civil war which followed "made him the effective

combat leader he is today," Rapkoch said.

"He's been in more complex and dire situations than the one we're in right now," said Rapkoch. But Shirali said he is tired of war, and he believes peace will only come when Afghans support the government.

The only way to achieve that is by him and his troops treating the people with dignity and respect. The kandak commander made respect a theme among his troops. He treats them as he expects them to treat the local members of the community they encounter during missions.

Rapkoch likened the way Shirali works with his subordinates to that of Marines, the bond Marines share on the battlefield and the idea of decentralized leadership.

"He genuinely cares about his soldiers," Rapkoch said. "During briefs, he'll bring in his men and have them do the briefs, so one day they'll be able to be in his position.

"He knows there are many different cultures among his men, but he likes to focus on the similarities, not the differences," said Rapkoch.

Rapkoch said Shirali understands the advisor team's role in Now Zad is to communicate and make suggestions. He said the time is coming when the team must leave and Shirali understands there's a "reason behind our role and that our method works."

Shirali considers himself to be lucky to have served with Marines. He said the professionalism they displayed while working with his kandak will have a lasting impression.

"We used to sit down daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner," Shirali said. "The Marines were

very good to us and taught us a lot."

Shirali said he and his men are very grateful for the training they conducted with the SFAAT, which included courses on explosive ordnance disposal, vehicle maintenance and first aid.

"Most importantly the Marines came from thousands of miles away, leaving their families, to risk their lives to protect us and help the future of Afghanistan," said Shirali.

U.S. Marine Maj. Paul Jarr, the executive officer for 2/215th SFAAT, spent a month in Now Zad helping the team set up operations, ensuring they had the tools needed for mission success. Jarr said he quickly realized Shirali was a genuine person and had great intentions for his Afghan soldiers and the people of Now Zad.

"He was adamant to find out who his soldiers really were," Jarr said. "He was definitely combat effective. He has the tools to assess where he's at, the capabilities and strength of his men, and he just knew what it took to take the fight to the enemy rather than allowing the enemy to bring the fight to them."

The Marines serving with the team are Shirali's fourth set of advisors. When the last team of advisors left, Shirali was on leave and didn't get the chance to say goodbye. He made it a point during the meeting to extend his gratitude and say farewell.

"Well, don't get up in the middle of the night and leave without saying goodbye this time," Rapkoch jokingly said to Shirali. "It's impossible," Shirali said. "We are brothers, here. I won't ever miss that opportunity again. You are my family."



SGT. BRYAN PETERSON

From left to right, Capt. Jeffrey P. Sparrow, 4th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, Security Force Assistance Advisor Team communications advisor; Capt. Nicolas S. Rapkoch 4th Kandak SFAAT team advisor, ANA Lt. Col. Shirali Noori, 4th Kandak commander; Maj. Paul Jarr, 2nd Brigade SFAAT deputy team leader and 1st Lt. Lance B. Souza, the 2nd Brigade SFAAT combat support advisors, take the time for a picture at Forward Operating Base Now Zad, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, March 18. The SFAAT Marines were surprised to find out Shirali was leaving for Jalalabad, where he is now serving as the 4th Kandak, 4th Brigade, 201st Corps' commander. Since December, Rapkoch, Sparrow and Jarr forged great relations with the commander, describing Shirali as a great leader who made great strides to make Now Zad free of Taliban influence and a safe district where shuras, before his kandak's presence, were unheard of.

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

### Briefs

#### Japanese Language Course

A spring course is scheduled every Tuesday, April 9 – June 25 7 – 9 p.m. at the Iwakuni Shimin Kaikan civic hall training room. For more information, call 253-5551. Only 40 seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

#### PMO Lost and Found

Contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the installation. Examples may include: Cell phones, keys, digital cameras, bicycle helmets, etc. To recover lost items or for more information, call 253-4929.

#### Craft Fair

There is a craft fair scheduled to take place April 20, 2013, inside Crossroads Mall from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### M.C. Perry Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School is slated to host parent-teacher conferences April 16, 2013, to answer questions on social, behavioral and academic well-being, along with any other concerns. The conferences are scheduled to begin at noon and continue throughout the day. For more information, contact Netra Harwell at 253-5827.

#### NMCRS

Servicemembers are encouraged to donate to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society during the 2013 Active Duty Fund Drive. NMCRS is scheduled to be in the Building One auditorium April 22 from 9-11 a.m.; April 25 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and April 30 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Servicemembers may also donate online at MOL through the "resources" tab in the upper right corner. From there, click the "Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society" link. The next page will have a link for the drive. Fill out the monthly donation, donation amount or choose another option. The allotment will then be confirmed. Donators may then request a printed receipt for their records.

#### Thrift Store Yard Sale

The station's Marine Thrift Store is scheduled to host a community yard sale April 20, 2013, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Anyone who wishes to sell their old belongings may reserve a table for

free. Limited table space is available. No home businesses. For more information, contact Oana Ivanoff at 080-4050-1369.

#### 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.

#### Parent Representatives Needed

Parent representatives are needed for the School Advisory Council and Installation Advisory Committee. The SAC meeting will take place April 16, 2013, at 3:30 p.m., and the IAC will take place April 25 at 3:30 p.m.

#### 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.

### Jobs

#### Dental Assistant

The U.S. Navy is now accepting applications for a full-time dental assistant position at the 3rd Dental Battalion/ U.S. Navy Dental Center, Iwakuni. Certification of qualification is required with three letters of recommendation. Applicants must successfully complete and pass a background investigation. This is not a civil service position. For more information call, 253-4628.

#### 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. Submissions will run the following Friday.

## KUNI TOONS: HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS WORK?

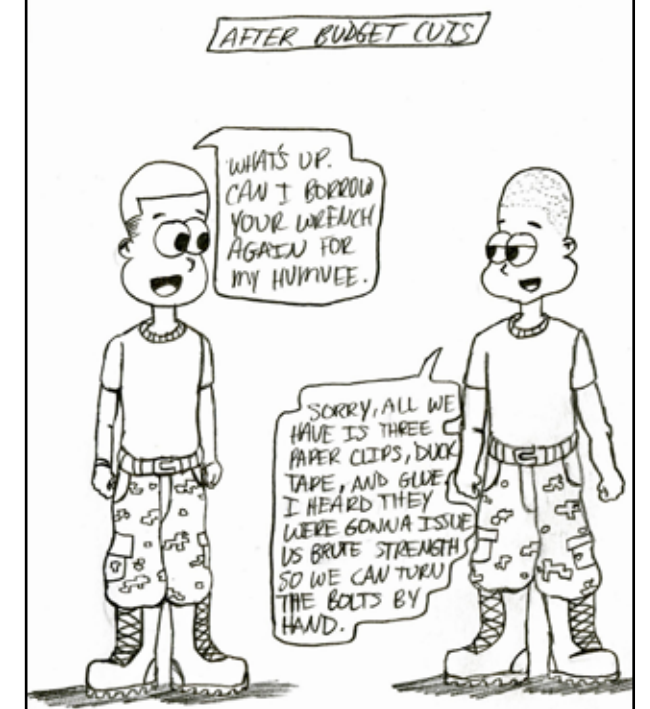
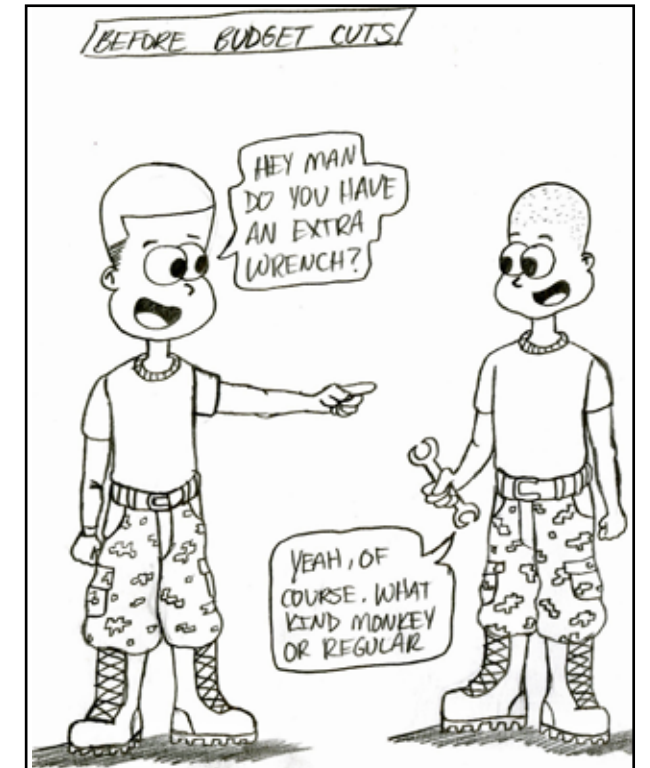


ILLUSTRATION BY CPL. MICHAEL DIAZ

## MCAS Tax Center: Fast & Free Tax Service

The MCAS Iwakuni Tax Center is located on the first deck in Building 608 at the Station Judge Advocate's office. Hours of operation will be Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays in March from

8:00 a.m. to noon by appointment only.

#### Tax filers need to bring the following:

- Proof of a valid social security number or ITIN for both the tax filer and all dependants claimed on this year's tax return
- W-2 (wage and tax statement)
- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks earned on savings or checking accounts)
- Child care expenses
- Records reflecting spousal or child support payments

- Mortgage interest statement
- Individual retirement account (IRA) contributions
- Dividends, interest, and capital gains and losses from the sale of stocks, bonds or property
- Charitable contribution records

The general deadline for filing your tax year 2012 federal income tax return is April 15. For those stationed outside the continental U.S., the deadline is June 15.

# 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

## 10TH OKAYAMA ANTIQUE MARKET

April 13-14, 2013, marks the 10th annual Okayama Antique Market, which takes place at Orange Hall, Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market hosts Japanese and Western gems and masterpieces. Free parking for approximately 200 vehicles will be available. An arts and crafts exhibition will also be displayed within the market. For more information, contact the Antique Market executive committee at 090-4103-3830 or <http://kottouantique.web.fc2.com/>.

## WHEEL VILLAGE

April 14, 2013, marks the Wheel Village vehicle and motorbike display and demonstration at the Toyomatsu Elementary School, Jinsekikogen-cho, Hiroshima Prefecture. Admission will be 1,000 yen for adults and free for elementary school students and younger. For more information, contact the Jinsekikogen-cho Tourist Association at 0847-85-2201 or <http://syarinmura.com/>.

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

# SAKURA THEATER

Friday, April 5, 2013  
7 p.m. Safe Haven (PG-13)

Saturday, April 6, 2013  
4 p.m. Escape from Planet Earth (PG)  
7 p.m. Beautiful Creatures (PG-13)

Sunday, April 7, 2013  
4 p.m. Escape from Planet Earth (PG)  
7 p.m. Good Day to Die Hard (R)

Monday, April 8, 2013  
7 p.m. Warm Bodies (PG-13)

Tuesday, April 9, 2013  
Theater closed

Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
Theater closed

Thursday, April 11, 2013  
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

Kanji Adventures : 初恋の香り  
SCENT OF FIRST LOVE : Hatsukoi no kaori



White strawberries, also called "Hatsukoi no kaori," or "Scent of First Love" in Japan, are considered a sweet delicacy.

They are in highest demand during spring and are showing up in more supermarkets in recent years.

The strawberries are the result of creative minds at Miyoshi Agritech Co., who have been developing new varieties of strawberries for more than 20 years.

Although the pale fruit looks unripe, their taste is amazingly sweet and rich. The color on the surface and the inside are white, but the seeds are red.

They have become very popular gift items at weddings, birthdays and births.

This craved fruit doesn't come cheap though. Average prices for the berry round to approximately 500 yen a pop.

Several Japanese companies, such as Sunfruit in Tokyo, offer the option to order bundles of white strawberries.

# IronWorks Gym goes out with old, in with new

Lance Cpl. B. A. Stevens  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Servicemembers and station residents who gave up on their New Year's resolutions to get back into shape now have another incentive to revive their workout routines. The IronWorks Gym has new equipment to help achieve fitness goals and expectations.

The new equipment has something for everyone. Twelve new machines target increasing muscle mass, and the treadmills allow members a great way to

work on running during rainy days or cold weather.

"The new Hoist equipment we received works the same muscles as the machine it replaced, but it is also designed for core stability," said Tammie Kaman, IronWorks Gym athletic director.

This means you can achieve a greater workout than before, while putting forth the same effort.

"So far it's really nice equipment and has a lot of great features," said Kaman. "The (equipment) that we had before were at the

end of their life cycle. In the winter months they broke down a lot."

Ironworks employees said some patrons may hesitate to use the new gear because of its strange, bulky new look, but that they shouldn't hesitate.

"(These) machines may look intimidating, however, each and every one serves a purpose," said Barbara Roman, Marine Corps Community Service fitness coordinator and personal trainer. Roman went on to say that machines serve as a foundation

for physical fitness. Other departments of the gym also purchased new gear such as health promotions and outdoor recreation.

"One of the things we tried to do was choose a variety of equipment. By doing so, we are able to meet the needs of the diverse customer base that we have," said Kaman.

Overall, it is a great opportunity for people aboard station to get back into shape utilizing the new equipment and accomplish physical fitness goals.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

A patron at the IronWorks Gym uses the new leg-press machine March 26, 2013. The gym also purchased new treadmills that have many more options than the previous treadmills.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

A servicemember uses the new bicep-curl machine at the IronWorks Gym here, March 26, 2013. The Gym spent more than \$100,000 on 12 new machines.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

A patron at the IronWorks Gym uses a new treadmill machine March 26, 2013. The 12 new machines force users to stabilize their core while working out the designated muscles. This achieves a greater workout with the same amount of effort.

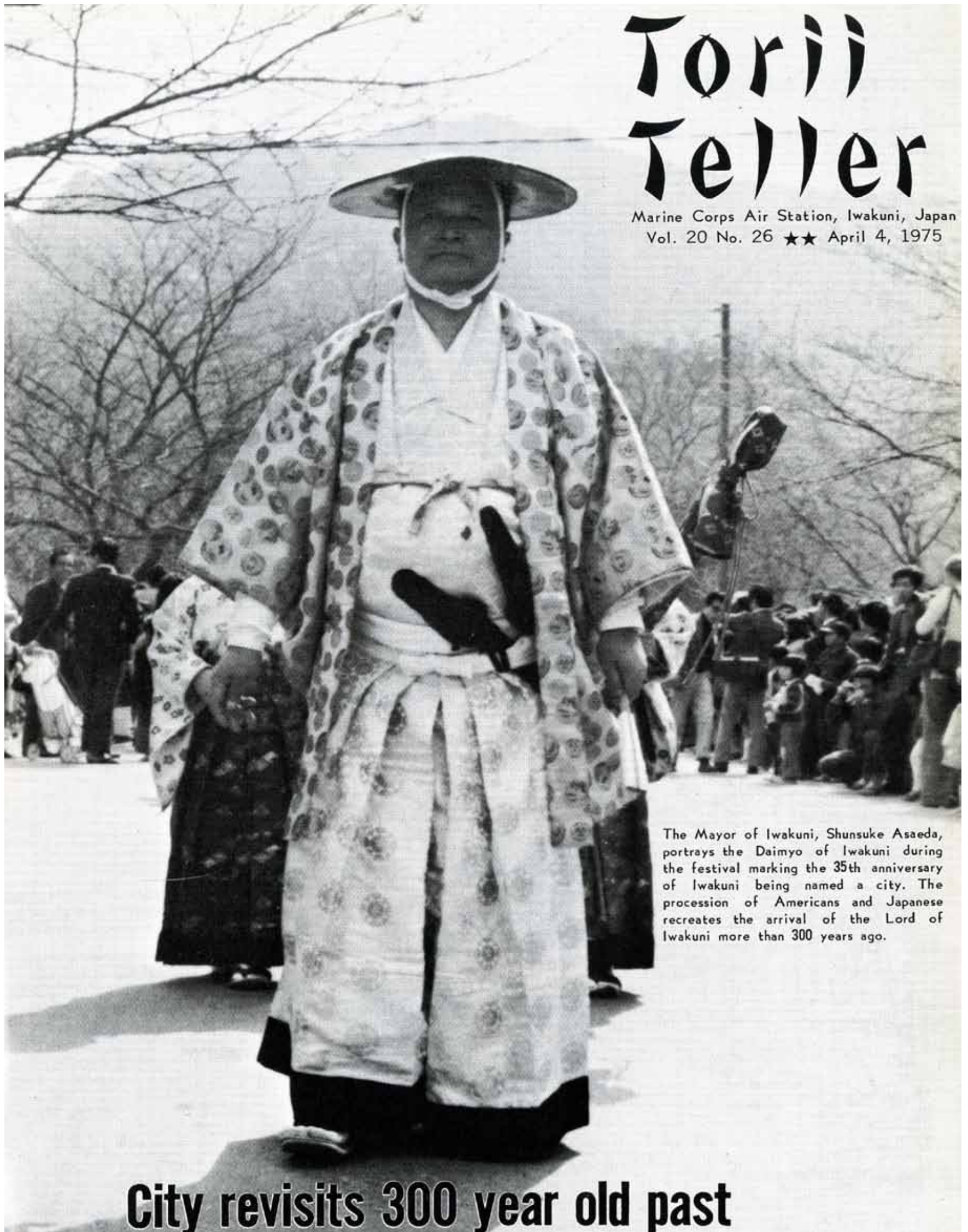


LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

A patron at the IronWorks Gym uses the new pectoral fly machine March 26, 2013. The 12 new machines force users to stabilize their core while working out the designated muscles. This lets users achieve a greater workout with the same amount of effort.

# *The Iwakuni Time Machine*

In the April 4, 1975, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on city and station residents participating in the March of the Daimyo festival, which marked the 35th anniversary of Iwakuni being named a city.



## Torii Teller

Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan  
Vol. 20 No. 26 ★★ April 4, 1975

The Mayor of Iwakuni, Shunsuke Asaeda, portrays the Daimyo of Iwakuni during the festival marking the 35th anniversary of Iwakuni being named a city. The procession of Americans and Japanese recreates the arrival of the Lord of Iwakuni more than 300 years ago.

### City revisits 300 year old past