

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 21 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Col. Christopher J. Mahoney, former Marine Aircraft Group 12 commanding officer, right shakes hands with Col. Hunter H. Hobson, the new MAG-12 commanding officer, during the MAG-12 change of command ceremony May 31, 2013.

LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

Bro, do you lift?

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

For the multitude of fitness enthusiasts who venture to the IronWorks gym daily, they may never notice the people who train on the bench press racks. After a few months, they may notice a group nestled in the bench press corner of the gym who gather the last Friday of every month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to test their strength with the bench press.

Such is the case for the station bench-press club.

"It gives some people a purpose to come to the gym," said Rodney Jacobs, Marine Corps Community Services SemperFit recreation assistant and coordinator for the bench-press club.

"Some people may say 'I come to the gym because I have to' or 'I'm bored. There's nowhere else to go.' So this gives you an outlet to not just come to gym, but an incentive because you're coming in for a purpose, a focus point. Plus, you get to meet a lot of people."

The bench-press club is comprised of three milestones for the bench press – 300 pounds, 350 pounds and 400 pounds for men with 125 pounds and 145 pounds for women. Anyone who reaches any of the aforementioned weights receives a shirt touting their accomplishment and their name on the board inside the gym with every weight they successfully pressed. All are welcome to join the club.

The 2013 Summer Slam Bench Press Challenge is slated to take place June 8, 2013. Though the bench-press club is in no way a part of the

Marine Aircraft Group 12 welcomes new CO

Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12's torch of leadership passed from Col. Christopher J. Mahoney to Col. Hunter H. Hobson during the MAG-12 change-of-command ceremony near the Marine All Weather Fighter

Attack Squadron 122 hangar here, May 31, 2013.

With the passing of the reigns for the Pacific powerhouse group that is MAG-12, some changes forthcoming.

"There will always be changes. Changes in personality, changes in some of the things that individuals think or might

be more important than others," said Mahoney. "But Colonel Hobson is a genuine combat hero. He is an aviator of the first order and I really couldn't think of anybody else that I would want to put in front of this group after me. He understands why we are here, he knows how to lead people and put an edge on tactics. He will

push this group to levels that they probably didn't think were possible."

With Mahoney's time commanding MAG-12 coming to a close, he reflected on what has been accomplished under his charge.

"Impact is measured by other people looking at

SEE MAG ON PAGE 3

Spouses get new look into Marine Corps life

Pfc. D. A. Walters
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps spouses and children participated in a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Jane Wayne Day here, June 1, 2013.

Participants took part in various

Marine Corps training exercises that tested different aspects of their mental and physical strength, such as live firing, gas chamber, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting demonstration, K-9 demonstration, Combat Fitness Test, Pugil-Stick competition and a formation run with cadence.

Katherine A. West, H&HS Family Readiness Officer and coordinator of Jane Wayne Day, said she enjoys giving spouses the opportunity of participating in activities and experiencing what their Marines go through or have

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COMEDY

Residents roar with laughter during show | P. 4



STEM


Kids go "Magic School bus" | P. 5



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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

‘Revolutionary Expectations’

Lt. j.g. LaToya Zavala
STATION CHAPLAIN

I admit it. I was the biggest culprit, the main offender, the hypocrite. If the dictionary had an entry for “defeating attitude,” my picture would be beside it. I plagued the world with the black hole of negativity and pessimism that surrounded me. I was disgusting! It’s embarrassing, but true! Gratefully, I had some courageous friends in my life who cornered me, scolded me, challenged me ... and other unpleasant things I shall not mention in this article. They were my Pygmalsions, and they revolutionized my world. Fairly recently, a powerful psychological theory arose and was coined “Pygmalion effect,” “Rosenthal effect,” (after the professor that developed it), or “self-fulfilling prophecy.” This theory,

mostly applied in the educational setting, suggests that people behave the way they are expected to behave. Does this sound too much like contemporary nonsense to you? It’s actually wisdom of the ages. Proverbs 23:7 states, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” In the Old Testament, God instructed Israel to encourage Joshua because he was about to win a battle (Deut. 3:28). When we encourage ourselves and others, He promises to bring about an expected end (Jer. 29:11). Experiment after experiment demonstrates this phenomenon exists in humanity and animals, without regard to age, sex or race. We act consistently with our expectations of ourselves. What do you expect from yourself? What do you expect from your family members, your colleagues, those you lead?

There are several things that you can do to increase the Pygmalion effect in your life. Kouzes and Posner said, “Creating Pygmalsions entails developing a winner’s attitude since only those who envision themselves as winners are likely to work hard, try new actions, and become leaders in their own right.” It is also crucial to be conscious about the fact that the leader’s behavior will reveal their expectations, whether it is intended or not. The way you envision your staff has an invaluable effect on how they perform. Systematic steps can be taken to improve your Pygmalion effect. 1. Write out what your expectations of yourself and those you directly affect have been. Be honest. 2. Ask those you directly affect, what they think are your expectations. (Beware, this is a reality check!)

3. Brainstorm three ways to communicate high expectations (of yourself and those you directly affect) and three more actions you can do to reinforce positive results. 4. Create an action plan that allows you to communicate and follow up on a vision of high achievement for you and them. Remember, Pygmalsions, “Successful leaders have high expectations, both of themselves and of their constituents. These expectations are powerful, because they’re the frames into which people fit reality.” It is time that you mirrored a different reality. It is time that you see yourself as successful and victorious. It is time that you effectively, decisively, and intentionally activate a winning attitude. God expects that from you, and when you expect it from yourself and those you directly influence, you will have your expected end. And with this thought, go, and revolutionize your world!

2013 Matthew C. Perry High School Graduates

Aliana Alexander

Steven Brown

Sam Cadavos

Shawn Eagmin

Jacob Garner

Shannon Gilbert

Connor Hadlock

Samantha Herritt

Christopher Jefferies

Kyandra Lane

Jatoya Latham

Kyle Lemos

Zachery Lewis

Marissa Martinez

Christopher McQuillen

Yasuki Milsop

Anne Naseer

JC Scott Natiola

Malcolm Niemann

Tabitha Niemann

Nicole Perry

Emily Piliz

Toshiki Primus

Josiah Ricafrente

Danielle Rosales

Destynce Santiago

Alysha Sellers

Danielle Shoebrook

Jesse Simmons

Ashley Starnes

Sidney Stephens

Charles Can Allen

Robert Whiteside

Robert Young

CLUB FROM PAGE 1

competition, it may serve as inspiration for some club members to compete. “It has no bearing on the competition, but it can prep you for the competition,” said Jacobs. Jacobs went on to say the club helps boost members’ confidence and possibly compel them to try their hand at the challenge as a morale booster. This morale booster helps to reinforce the notion that anything within the realm of feasibility may be accomplished. “Sometimes, we get hungry and one stop is not enough,” said Jacobs. “A major did 350, then went for his personal record of 375, even

though 375 is not on the board. That gave him a little incentive to keep climbing up to 400. Whether he chooses to do the 400 or not, he got his personal best today. This gives them that personal ‘I did it. I accomplished it. I reached that mountain peak.’” This line of thought, attaining a higher goal, was shared by those in attendance, in particular, Cpl. Derrick M. Carden, a Marine Aircraft Group 12 aviation logistics information management support specialist and routine gym patron, who wanted to see if he did indeed achieve his personal goal of bench pressing 300 pounds. “I’ve been training for a while now to try and get in shape and I wanted to get some type of

award for it,” said Carden. “As long as I got 300, I was good.” Carden said he never knew the exact times for the bench club but when they invited him to try out, he was pleasantly surprised by how well he did. It’s something I’ve thought about doing.” Some may marvel at the limits the human body can endure. Whether pulling a semi-truck, pushing mind-boggling amounts of weight or snatching weight overhead, strength is intriguing. For those who are members of the bench-press club, it is there, at their temple of iron and steel, where they strive to understand those limits, surpass them, and become proprietors of strength.

JANE FROM PAGE 1

been through in the past. “I think it’s important so that way they have a better understanding about what their spouse does,” said West. “It’s a really good learning experience.” Live firing consisted of shooting the M240B medium machine gun, M249 light machine gun and M4 semiautomatic rifle after receiving the proper training at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Training facility. Anita S. Clayton, Jane Wayne Day participant, compared shooting rifles to the feeling of being able to conquer the world. “It was awesome,” said Clayton.

“I would have to get really level headed to shoot one of those.” Participants suited up in full Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear, and into the gas chamber they went. Participants were exposed to 0-Chlorobenzalmalononitrile gas (CS gas) and had to break the seal of their gas mask. With coughs, running noses and watery eyes, the participants pushed on to their next event to test their physical ability and see how far they could push their limits. A modified CFT tested their ability to perform ammo can lifts, and run the combat endurance course, minus the buddy drag.

“I love physical activity,” said Clayton. “But that pushed me over the limit and that was only half of what Marines do.” Then it came down to the Pugil-Stick competition where participants showed off their warrior ability to attack one another with different strikes and movements. “That’s a lot of aggression you can take out on somebody,” said Clayton. “It was very empowering.” At the end of the participants’ ‘Day in the life of a Marine’ experience, a few were presented awards for their outstanding performance in certain training exercises.

Clayton won The Hard Charger for her outstanding motivation throughout her participation. Josh Hess and Jillian M. McKelvey both won The Top Shooter award for their Marine-like marksmanship. The Bruiser award went to Kristyn M. Pettito for being the champion in the Pugil-Stick competition. Throughout the day’s taxing training exercises, it didn’t matter whether participant’s left with rashes, cuts, bruises, or an increased motivational look into the Marine Corps, Jane Wayne Day was a success at showing military family members what it feels like to slip in to their Marines’ boots.



Col. Christopher J. Mahoney, former Marine Aircraft Group 12 commanding officer, passes the MAG-12 unit colors to Col. Hunter H. Hobson, the new MAG-12 commanding officer, during the MAG-12 change of command ceremony May 31, 2013. The morning of the ceremony, Col. Mahoney flew one last time in the Marine All Weather fighter Attack Squadron 242 flag ship with Col. Hobson flying by his side in a second aircraft.

MAG FROM PAGE 1

what you have done and not what you think you have done,” said Mahoney. “Other people have to measure that. The things that we have tried to do have all centered around being ready to go quicker, being ready to go quicker with more and ready to go into battle. So, whether we have attained that or not, the ultimate test

would happen in combat ... I feel sorry for anyone who may challenge this air group, in the air or on the ground.” With his new position as MAG-12 commanding officer, Hobson gave insight as to how he felt the group is progressing. “Here in Iwakuni, we enjoy many advantages that other MAGs back in the states don’t,” said Hobson. “The others are

force providers. They basically put together the best squadrons they can and send those forward out here to Japan ... It is critical that we be good stewards to those groups and utilize them in a way that is meaningful.” With the success MAG-12 has achieved in the past, Hobson elaborated on upcoming plans for the future. “Innovative ideas like

taking everyone down to Tinian and carving out the runways there and start using them,” said Hobson. “They had C-130s out there landing. Now going back and redoing those runways, having airplanes come in and do arrested landings and setting the record for most arrested landings on an expeditionary airfield, and I’d like to continue to do that over the next

few years. I think that is exactly the direction that MAG-12 needs to continue to go and I’m going to make sure that happens.” In closing remarks, Hobson let others know how he feels to be a part of MAG-12. “I am extremely proud to be here, this unit has an amazing history and a proud heritage and I am honored to be part of MAG-12,” said Hobson.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Daniel Dugar, comedian, performs his routine during the Armed Forces Entertainment Celebrity Comedy Tour show, "Trippin' with the Troops," in the Club Iwakuni ballroom at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, May 29, 2013. Dugar toured Iwakuni two years ago with another group of comedians and has 22 years of stand-up experience.

COMEDIANS TURN CLUB INTO 'HOUSE OF LAUGHS'

Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Comedians from the Armed Forces Entertainment Celebrity Comedy Tour brought laughs and excitement to station residents during their show, "Trippin' with the Troops," in the Club Iwakuni ballroom here, May 29, 2013.

Along with their performance, comedians Daniel Dugar, Mark Guillory and Tony Woods received a tour of the base.

"We got to do everything that was on our 'tour bucket list,'" said Guillory. "We met some great people, saw a dog jump through a window and ate some great food. I'm going to have a tear in my eye when we leave."

The tour consisted of a Provost Marshal's Office K-9 dog demonstration, a meet-and-greet with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and a radio interview with American Forces Network.

For Dugar, this wasn't his first time in Iwakuni. Dugar said he toured Iwakuni two years ago with another group of comedians.

Among the three performers, Woods was prior enlisted as a United States Navy corpsman, attached to Fleet Marine Force. Dugar touched on how his father was former military. Guillory never had any military affiliation, but had a reason for showing that evening.

"It gives me the opportunity to give back. Because of our armed forces, we are free. I never joined the military, but this is my way of giving back: they keep us free, we make them laugh," said Guillory.

As station residents filed in, waiting for the show to begin, performers knew exactly what point they wanted to get across.

"We want to see the satisfaction of the men and women enjoying themselves, appreciating the fact that we haven't forgotten about them and that we are here for them," said Dugar.

After a successful evening and meet-and-greet afterward, residents were able to thank them for taking the time to bring something from home to Japan.

"When you're thousands of miles away from your home, family and loved ones, to bring the men and women here a sense of home away from home is a wonderful thing," said Dugar.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Tony Woods performs his routine during the Armed Forces Entertainment Celebrity Comedy Tour show, "Trippin' with the Troops," in the Club Iwakuni ballroom at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, May 29, 2013. Woods was a former United States Navy corpsman, attached to Fleet Marine Force. Along with their performance, comedians Daniel Dugar, Mark Guillory and Tony Woods received a tour of the base. The tour consisted of a Provost Marshal's Office K-9 dog demonstration, a meet-and-greet with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and a radio interview with American Forces Network.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Michael Erhart, Matthew C. Perry Elementary School 3rd grade teacher, demonstrates how sound can travel through a paper clip and pass in to a sound-focusing device (the paper) to Suzanne Landrum, M. C. Perry Elementary School principal, during the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Repurpose Carnival, which took place inside the M. C. Perry Elementary School gymnasium May 31, 2013. The four main areas covered by the projects included bubbles, magnets, sound and paper.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Mandy Lopez, 8, a Matthew C. Perry Elementary School student, demonstrates her project during the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Repurpose Carnival, which took place inside the M. C. Perry Elementary School gymnasium May 31, 2013. In its broadest definition, STEM degrees include Chemistry, Computer and Information Technology Science, Engineering, Geosciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy, Psychology, Social Sciences, and STEM Education and Learning Research.

STEM projects give students hands-on learning experience

Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School students hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Repurpose Carnival inside the M. C. Perry Elementary School gymnasium here, May 31, 2013.

The event included static displays in the center of the room, all of which showcased different projects made from recyclables by students, and several hands-on stations surrounding the gym's perimeter.

"We've been balancing a book on paper and putting black sand on your hand and moving it using magnets," said Keandra Conner, 9, M. C. Perry 3rd grade student. "I'm going to enjoy working with my friends and showing the audience what we've been doing. I want to teach people how a text book can balance on a piece of paper."

Working on the projects gave students a useful opportunity to develop their skills kinetically.

"This integrates science, technology, engineering and math together, and we're trying to get these kids to realize how they go together and how

powerful they can be from a young age, so, as they start getting into middle school and high school, they start thinking about the math and the science, and becoming more technologically proficient," said Michael Erhart, M. C. Perry 3rd grade teacher. "A lot of kids like to play video games, but this is hands-on science and that's what we're trying to get them to see."

While Erhart supervised the event, the students took full control of steering the show.

"You always worry about, 'are they going to be able to run it? Have you prepared them well enough?' But we've gone over all of these things in the classroom and we ran through their stations this morning ... so when they came here, I felt good about it," said Erhart.

Students wore faces of confidence as they demonstrated their newfound knowledge to teachers and other students.

"This is hands-on stuff, it's real," said Erhart. "It's not like a video game you just play. With this, you build stuff, you see it, you create things, you understand things. They could watch this stuff on a video, but it's not as powerful as doing it."



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Zeplyn Kelley, right 8, a Matthew C. Perry Elementary School student, demonstrates his project during the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Repurpose Carnival, which took place inside the M. C. Perry Elementary School gymnasium May 31, 2013. STEM generally supports broadening the study of engineering within other subjects and beginning engineering at younger grades, even elementary school.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Gabrielle Romeo, 8, a Matthew C. Perry Elementary School student, demonstrates her project during the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Repurpose Carnival, which took place inside the M. C. Perry Elementary School gymnasium May 31, 2013.

Recovery, keeping the station's flightline safe

Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

“Have you seen the movie Top Gun? How jets land and they have a hook that catches a wire and that stops them? We do the same thing here on the air station,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Pacheco, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron runway supervisor.

Pacheco also mentioned such landings are only done in case of emergency, but it's important to always prepare for such an occurrence.

It's because of this need for continual preparedness recovery Marines aboard station maintain a constant vigilance, working around the clock to keep those who use the flightline safe.

One of the pieces of recovery gear Marines here focus on keeping in peak condition is the E-28 Emergency Runway Arresting Gear, which is used to catch the tail hook of incoming jets, if such a landing is necessary.

The operational reach of recovery

goes far beyond just performing routine maintenance aboard station, though. When it comes to exercises such as Geiger Fury, where Marines made world-first achievements on creating runways in austere environments, it's the recovery Marines who make such things possible.

“I went to the Philippines and we were there for Exercise Balikatan 2013, and what we did there, they said couldn't be done,” said. Lance Cpl. Arien K. McClure, expeditionary airfield technician. “Right now, our shop is the hottest recovery shop in the Marine Corps. We went to Tinian, did the first coral installation ever. I was on station when it happened, but being able to be part of it, in a way, is exhilarating knowing we set that record.”

Recovery Marines from Iwakuni currently hold the military-wide record for arrestment landings conducted in less than an hour, performing 13 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. They also held the previous record of 10, achieved during Geiger Fury 2012.



Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
Lance Cpl. Anthony Garza, A station aircraft recovery specialist, performs maintenance work on an E-28 Emergency Runway Arresting Gear on the flightline, May 24, 2013. Recovery Marines from Iwakuni are responsible for the two most recent arrestment landings in less than an hour record, performing 13 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012 and 10 during Geiger Fury 2012.



Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
Lance Cpl. Michael Truex, A station aircraft recovery specialist, performs maintenance on an E-28 Emergency Runway Arresting Gear on the flightline, May 24, 2013. Recovery Marines from Iwakuni also currently hold the military-wide record for arrestment landings conducted in less than an hour, performing 13 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012 .



Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Pacheco, A station runway supervisor, performs maintenance on an E-28 Emergency Runway Arresting Gear on the flightline, May 24, 2013. Recovery Marines perform daily maintenance checks, as well as any necessary work after the equipment is used.



Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
Lance Cpl. Michael Truex, A station aircraft recovery specialist, performs maintenance on an E-28 Emergency Runway Arresting Gear on the flightline, May 24, 2013. Recovery Marines from Iwakuni also currently hold the military-wide record for arrestment landings conducted in less than an hour, performing 13 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012 .



Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
Sgt. Blake Chaffin, A station aircraft recovery specialist, performs maintenance on an E-28 Emergency Runway Arresting Gear on the flightline, May 24, 2013. Recovery Marines must constantly ensure their gear is at peak performance in order for it to assist in an emergency landing.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

'Islands Warriors' conquer range with IAR training

Lance Cpl. Suzanna Lapi
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT — As the sun beat down and crystal blue ocean waves crashed in the background, Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted a squad-level advanced marksmanship course at Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, May 23, 2013. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian Somers, the 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines gunner, said the Marines received classroom instruction on employment of the Infantry Automatic Rifle weapon system, then moved to the range for four days to cover basic and enhanced marksmanship with M27 infantry automatic rifles. Somers explained the purpose of the training is improving shooters' skills, familiarizing the Marines with the weapons and supporting fire teams and squads. They also focused on practicing disciplined transitioning between full and semi automatic. After loading magazines, the Marines took to the firing line with their weapons to implement training and improve rifleman skills. The Marines shot from unknown and known distances. Lance Cpl. Peter Hervey, an IAR gunner with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, said this training was one of the most tactical and efficient training sessions with the M27 IAR he has participated in. "We were more hands on and we focused on

detailed aspects of the rifle," Hervey said. "You suppress the enemy with the most capable automatic rifle in your squad." Hervey explained what they learned helps give IAR gunners a better understanding of the IAR as a key element in squads and platoons, since each fire team is supported by the automatic rifle. The Marines transitioned from standing, kneeling and prone positions throughout the course of fire as the targets moved up and down after their rounds made impact. Lance Cpl. Vincent DeLuca, an IAR gunner with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, said the automatic rifle gives IAR gunners a better way to provide suppressive fire. "If we shoot more rounds than the enemy shoots at us, we have the initiative and the ability to move on the objective," DeLuca said. DeLuca explained since the M27 automatic rifle replaced the M249 squad automatic weapon, they have a new system to learn, and this training properly teaches them the



Lance Cpl. Vincent DeLuca, an infantry automatic rifle gunner with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, shoots his weapon during a squad level advanced marksmanship course at Kaneohe Bay range training facility, May 23, 2013. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian Somers, the 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines gunner, said Marines received classes on employment of the IAR weapon system, then moved to the range for four days to cover basics and enhanced marksmanship with M27 infantry automatic rifles.

weapon system. As the Marines emptied their magazines, they were evaluated on their marksmen skills by range coaches at each target point. "Every single bullet they shoot, they get feedback," Somers said. "Their ability to employ their weapon systems properly makes or breaks squads. The more effective they are here, the more effective they will be as enhanced marksmen in the future to support our unit."



Lance Cpl. Alexander Kreg, an infantry automatic rifle gunner with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, shoots his weapon in the standing position during a squad level advanced marksmanship course at Kaneohe Bay range training facility, May 23, as Lance Cpl. Marius Loots, a 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines range coach, watches his performance. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian Somers, the 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines gunner, said the Marines received classroom instruction on employment of the IAR weapon system, then moved to the range for four days to cover basics and enhanced marksmanship with M27 infantry automatic rifles.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Okinawa CREDO
The Okinawa Credo is scheduled to host a Family Enrichment Retreat from July 17-19, 2013. Children five years and older are invited to participate and each family may bring two children max. For more information, contact the station chapel at 253-3371.

Contractor Gate
Recently, the Contractor Gate has been experiencing traffic congestion due to heavy usage. Due to the congestion, the Provost Marshal's Office is requesting all personnel who are not contractors (Active Duty Military,

JMSDF, MLC/IHA employees, etc.) to access the installation via the Main Gate or Monzen Gate and refrain from utilizing the Contractor Gate. Additionally, it is recommended that individuals riding bicycles not utilize the Contractor Gate. Due to the limited space, it slows down traffic flow and adds to the congestion. For more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Husman at 253-6942.

Infertility Seminar
An Infertility Seminar is scheduled for June 13, 2013, at 5 p.m. in the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Branch Health Clinic lobby. Dr. Atsushi Tanaka, a local gynecologist and infertility specialist, will speak about the different non-

TRICARE infertility treatment options. The seminar is open to anyone interested. For more information, contact the TRICARE representative at 253-3126, or your Primary Care Manager via Relay Health message.

Vehicles

Nissan Cube 1999
Nissan Cube, 1999. \$2,500. Automatic drive, air conditioning, power doors, windows, steering and brakes. Four door, hatch, 4 seats. Amenities include a JVC CD player with bluetooth and two USB inputs, snow chains, owner's manual, road flare and basic care tote (wax, rags and detailing products). JCI good

through Feb. 2014, road tax paid; timing chain, tension relay and head gasket recently replaced. For more information on "Bumblebee," please call Karma Rich at 090-9061-7783.

Brief and Classified Submissions
To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please include a contact name, a phone number and the information you want 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. Friday.

June Promotions

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.
Avery, Jason D.
Batista, Devon A.
Crowell, Alexander L.
Garza, Jonathan R.
Jacobson, Kathryn L.
Johnson, Nathan L.

Cpl.
Barry, Joshua T.
Garciaarabajal, Jonathan M.
Hall, Zachary J.
Harrelson, Coleman B.
Menbreno, Geneses U.
Moss, Courtney M.
Nguyen, Aiquocjohn D.
Pollard, Ethan L.

Sgt.
Baker, Caitlyn J.
Draper, Daniel D.

Staff Sgt.
Stuempert, Jeremy A.

Master Sgt.
Sexton, Brian K.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.
Andrejak III, Thomas C.
Betschart, Journie L.
Dura, Jeffrey P.
Fairweather, Kyle E.
Hills, Brandon F.
Mohler, James L.
Morris, Christopher A.

Cpl.
Berteau, Winston J.
Garcia, Michael J.
Pryer, Benjamin N.

Staff Sgt.
Bruce II, Robert E.

VMFA(AW)-242 MAG-12

Lance Cpl.
Alvarado, Luis A.
Austin, Zachary L.
McCaffree, Danny R.

Cpl.
Kanos Jr., John B.
Maldonado, Henry M.
Van, Danny R.
Volarvich, Bryce A.
Wilborn, Samuel A.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.
Batistagrullon, Jose F.
Leck, Robert C.
Mares, Elizabeth N.
Martinez, Orlando

Cpl.
Aguilera, Christopher A.
Carpio, Diego A.
Rodriguez, Kevin
Rojas, Douglas A.

Lance Cpl.
Santiago, Jeffrey A.

Cpl.
Harrington, Ellroy M.
Hospidales, Nicholas A.

Staff Sgt.
Harris, Ryan C.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.
Alford III, Charles R.
Boatright, Austin G.
Boyd, Jonathan M.
Conditt, Matthew A.
Edwards II, Mark L.
Elsberry, Paul H.
Jordi, Stephanie.
Tarter, Austen S.
Weber, Matthew D.
Yarbrough, Ryan D.

Cpl.
Baird, Alexander J.
Bromagen, Nathan J.
Dipenti, Frank G.
Lake, Keith L.
Leahy, Matthew P.
Santos Jr. Ronald T.
Thomas, Matthew J.

Sgt.
Alliman, Damali G.
Brionesgonzales, Jose J.
Dersch, Autumn N.
Dykes, Tommy L.
Ward, Brandon A.

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 are Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The deadline for taxes is June 17.

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
 - Proof of alimony paid and SSN of person paid alimony. Court ordered document stating divorce and powers of attorney
- 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. Call the tax center at 253-5951 for more information.

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
2nd and 4th Saturday	10 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist
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

CORMORANT FISHING

This is a traditional method of fishing. Fishermen use cormorant birds on leashes to catch fish. Enjoy a summer night watching this unique event near the Kintai Bridge. Performances will take place June 1 - Sept. 10 from 12:30 - 2 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m. The daytime performances are available on weekends and Japanese holidays only and a reservation is required. For more information, contact the Information and Referral office at 253-4197 or mccsiwakuni.com.

THE 23RD SAIKYO CONCERT – THE PRAGUE RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra is slated to perform at the Shunn City Culture Hall June 27, 2013 at 4 p.m. The program is the entire of “My Country” by Smetana. The admission is 6,000 yen for S-seats, 5,000 yen for A-seats, 4,000 yen for B-seats. For more information, contact the Shunan city Culture Hall at 0834-22-8787.

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

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, June 7, 2013 7 p.m. Iron Man 3 (PG-13)	Monday, June 10, 2013 7 p.m. Pain & Gain (R)
Saturday, June 8, 2013 4 p.m. The Big Wedding (R) 7 p.m. Mud (PG-13)	Tuesday, June 11, 2013 Theater closed
Sunday, June 9, 2013 4 p.m. Scary Movie 5 (PG-13) 7 p.m. Iron Man 3 (PG-13)	Wednesday, June 12, 2013 Theater closed
	Thursday, June 13, 2013 7 p.m. Iron Man 3 (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.



Ryan Falk, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment Bravo communications chief and player for The Reapers, hits a pitch in the Memorial Weekend Softball Tournament championship game May 27, 2013. The Reapers won the championship with a season record of 6-0.

Athletes swing to win during Memorial Weekend Softball Tournament

Story and photos by
Pfc. D. A. Walters
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Cheers, laughs and the sound of softballs hitting bats rang through the air May 25-27, 2013, at Penny Lake baseball field and the field behind the parade deck during the Memorial Weekend Softball Tournament, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services. Jason B. Knight, MCCS Intramural Sports Coordinator, put together and managed the tournament to help give Marines something to do during Memorial Day weekend. “There is not much to do. Especially for the young Marines who are just getting here for the first time,” said Knight. “A foreign country can be kind of intimidating. A little bit of this helps remind them that home is not that far away.”

The Memorial Weekend Softball Tournament was a way for Marines to get together during the holiday and participate in an activity that was of common interest. “It’s also vital to their morale,” said Knight. “Events like this build camaraderie among the units. It takes their mind off work and allows them to de-stress.” This year, more teams participated in the softball tournament than last year. Knight said he appreciated that more teams are coming out and playing. “I’m more than ecstatic because last year there were 13 teams,” said Knight. “We had 18 teams show up this year.” Among the teams that participated through the three-day tournament, The Reapers of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 came out as the champions with a record of 6-0. Nathan J. Bromagen, MWSS-171 motor

transportation operator, played outfielder for The Reapers. The team had been practicing for three months in preparation for the tournament. According to Bromagen, something as simple as competing in a tournament together helped tighten unit camaraderie. “Our moral was already up just by playing softball with each other,” said Bromagen. Knight enjoys hosting events to show Marines someone is there and trying to provide them with something fun to get out of the barracks and have a good time. “I do enjoy what I do,” said Knight. “I like doing it and I like seeing them have a good time, having fun, getting together, joking and laughing.” No matter the outcome, or score, all the players competed to show they are Marines bound by fellowship and camaraderie.



Josh J. Rystrom, Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron prowler electronic counter measures officer and player for Romeo Mike, is throwing softball to warm up for the next game at the Memorial Weekend Softball Tournament May 25, 2013. Marines competed in a double elimination softball tournament over the holiday weekend in hopes of making it to the championship.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



A pusher, known as oshiya in Japanese, is a worker who pushes people onto a train at a railway station during the morning and evening rush hours. When they were first brought in at Shinjuku Station, they were called "passenger arrangement staff," or ryokakuseirigakari, and were largely made up of students working part-time: today, station staff and/or part-time workers fill these roles during morning rush hours on many lines. It becomes difficult to shut the doors when the number of passengers is more than 200 percent of a train's capacity, but pushers are often stationed on platforms when trains are at around 120 percent capacity, as they also help to

organize passengers. The basic routine for a pusher is as follows: Pushers conduct safety checks before the train arrives, then watch as passengers board and depart. Just before the train departs, they guide those who can't find space to a less crowded area of the train. When the doors close, they check if passengers or luggage are stuck in the doors. If any passengers are trapped, they go to push them in to the train. When they have finished their area, they will usually help other pushers. They also pull off passengers attempting to get on too late, or when the train is too full. After the doors have closed, they hold up a flag, hand, or lamp to signal the conductor or driver that it is safe to depart.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the June 9, 1978, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on the beginning of Cormorant fishing, a traditional Japanese fishing technique where fishermen tie ropes around a cormorant bird's neck loosely enough to allow breathing, but tightly enough to catch any fish the bird may swallow inside their throat.

OFF DUTY

Something Fishy Reported at the Nishiki River

By GySgt. Mike Littlejohn

The setting on the Nishiki River (near Kintai Bridge) was the same June 1 as it has been for more than 350 years. Local businessmen, as well as civic and community leaders, gathered under Kintai Bridge to celebrate the beginning of one of Iwakuni's unique cultural events — cormorant fishing.

The nightly event, which takes place between June 1 and August 31, matches the skill of some of nature's best winged fishers — the cormorant — against the ever elusive

fish in the Nishiki River. To make the task even more interesting, the birds make their catch at night, under the light of a burning torch, and with fiber rings around their necks and handlers controlling them with ropes.

Though the task sounds difficult, the birds and their handlers appear to work as extensions of each other as they go after the fish. The birds, captured in the wilds of northern Japan, undergo about 18 months of training before they perform in public. Cormorant handlers, however, must spend almost 10 years learning and perfecting their technique before they take part in a live show.

The show itself combines the best of a Venetian gondola ride and the festivities of a Mississippi riverboat, Oriental style. Check in time is 6:20 p.m. and the final boat returns at 9:20 p.m. In between, spectators can enjoy Oriental cuisine ranging from a simple snack to a tasty dinner, complete with sake, beer or tea. Included in the show are traditional Japanese and kabuki dancers dressed in ceremonial attire. All this while spectators and showboats float together on the river.

The highlight of the evening is, of course, the cormorant fishing. As spectator boats traverse the center of the river, the fishing boats circle the group, putting their birds to work. The demonstration is such that persons on either side of the boats get a close look at the cormorants in action.

The fishermen, dressed in 200-year-old traditional garb of headress, kimono, apron, straw skirt and sandals, control their birds with reed ropes attached to rings on each bird's neck. The ropes, though normally strong, are designed to break easily if a bird becomes entangled with an underwater obstacle.

The birds dive repeatedly for fish using only the boat's torch for light. Unlike their counterparts in the wild, who store the prey in a throat pouch, cormorants used in the exhibition are prevented by the neck rings from storing their catch. Consequently, they give up their bounty to their handlers who, in turn, give them smaller pieces of fish which they can swallow easily.

The unusual fishing partnership of bird and man has proved to be a popular attraction in Japan. Last year, more than 12 thousand people visited Iwakuni's exhibition.

For Station folks who plan to attend one on this year's shows, reservations are a good idea. Tickets for adults and children vary with the type of meal desired. Costs range from ¥2,000 for just the show, to ¥4,000 for the show and full meal. There are also special rates for groups. Show tickets for youngsters begin at ¥1,500. Reservations can be made by calling 41-0470.

Whether you're a serious fisherman or simply an armchair angler looking for excitement, a visit to Kintai's cormorant fishing exhibition is something worth seeing.



Sgt. Guy M. Smith

Bird anglers prepare a cormorant for a night's fishing.



Sgt. C.W. Rowe

The metal basket of fire illuminates the Nishiki River for the skilled cormorant fishermen.