

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 25 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, returns from his final military flight to Fukuoka, Japan, July 2, 2013. After arriving, Stewart was presented with a plaque by Lt. Col. F. Lance Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer. Stewart is slated to retire and change command July 12, 2013, ending a 29-year career of dedicated service.

MCAS Iwakuni commanding officer bids farewell

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

On July 6, 1984, Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, a civilian at the time, raised his right hand and swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United

States.

Stewart upheld that oath to present day, as he prepares to pass the colors at his change of command and retirement ceremony July 12, 2013, ending an illustrious 29-year career of dedicated service to the United States and the Marine Corps.

"What we will see is the passing from the

32nd to 33rd generation of Marine Corps colonel that has commanded this installation," said Stewart, who will be giving command to Col. Robert Boucher.

Stewart isn't a stranger to Iwakuni, he spent five years stationed here; two as Headquarters

SEE **COMMANDING** ON PAGE 3

Sergeant Major prepares to hang up his boots

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

At some point, there will come a time when we retire our camouflaged utilities, never to wear them again.

For Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, sergeant major, that day is today.

"It's the old cliché of bitter sweet, but I am looking forward to it," said Brown. "I have no regrets. It's been 26 years and a lot of changes since I joined. I like to think all those

changes are leaning toward the word progress, however, it's just time for me to move on."

Looking back on his career, Brown thought back to his fondest memories in the Marine Corps.

"My fondest memory in the Marine Corps is probably from when I was attached as battalion sergeant major with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, and we were in Helmand Province," said Brown. "I served both on the wing side and the ground

SEE **RETIREMENT** ON PAGE 3

Local national employees retire with years of dedicated service to station

PFC. D. A. WALTERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A retirement ceremony took place for eight local national employees inside the Landing Zone at Club Iwakuni, June 27, 2013.

The retirees' years of service varied from 18 to 35 years on station, which showed their devotion and commitment to servicemembers here.

To begin the ceremony, Lt. Col. Mike Carreiro, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni S-1 and manpower director, recognized eight retirees with an opening address expressing his thanks for their service aboard station.

SEE **DEDICATED** ON PAGE 3

SPLASH!

Local children have fun in the sun | P. 4



CHEF

Slicin', dicin', and preppin' | P. 5



PARADE

You can't rain on my Parade | P. 11





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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

'Turn Those Lemons into Lemonade'

LT. ALEXANDER J. CHO
MWSS-171 SQUADRON
CHAPLAIN

Is there anyone reading this that has never dealt with suffering in their lives?

Even though I do not know every single person that will read this article, I know if you are reading this article you have dealt with suffering in your life.

Suffering is unavoidable. Sin is unavoidable.

We are all sinners, living in a fallen world filled with suffering: our bodies are going to get hurt, people will pass away etc.

That’s life. My challenge to you is to look at those same exact things but in a positive light.

James 1:2-4 says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

In all of our trials and sufferings, God promises to bring something good out of even our darkest moments.

One key way this takes place is when we share the comfort he

offered us with those who are now going through trials.

What does that mean?

Use your past experiences to help those currently going through that same suffering.

If I am going through a difficult divorce, the person who can offer the most insightful advice is someone who went through a difficult divorce. We need to be there for each other.

There is no shame in turning to someone for advice and counseling.

In this article, I am not answering the question of why we suffer.

I am stating we can find encouragement through suffering, we can turn lemons into lemonade.

July Promotions

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.

Altman, David E.
Brazile, Joshua C.
Cross, Nathan S.
Manceaux, Kristopher
Murphy, Cody S.
Warren, Charles L.

Cpl.

Betz, Wesley B.
Bierley, Stephen J.
Louie, Phillip J.
MorenoTorres, Edi
Muehleip, Paul J.
Pelaez, Antonio D.

Gunnery Sgt.

Scudder, Scott M.

MAG-12

Lance Cpl.

Fernandez, Anna R.

Cpl.

Barnett, Vincent G.
Harrington, Ellory M.

Sgt.

Case, John B

Gunnery Sgt.

Griffin Jr., Charles E.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.

Alonsobrizuela, Juan C.
Barger, Daniel A.
Black, Brandon L.
Perez, Jonathan
Uribe, Aaron A.
Whitesinger, William W.
Williams Jr., Anthony V.
Zeller, Evan J.

Cpl.

David, Devon L.
Fouts, Nicholas G.
MendezRodriguez, Marco A.
Stombaugh, Stephenie A.

Sgt.

James, Devon R.

Master Sgt.

Sanders, Matthew A.

MACS-4 Det B

Cpl.

Johnson, Chelsea C.
Lee, Kiethen K.
PerezVargas, Giovanni

Sgt.

Roy, Stephen J.

Staff Sgt.

Dellacamera, John D.

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.

Arias, Andrew
Jenkins, Jarrett J.
Sobrinobonilla, Edwin D.

Sgt.

Gillman, Wesley L.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.

Smith, Samantha M.
Young, Christopher R.

Cpl.

Reynolds, Dakota L.

Sgt.

Johnson, Raheem M.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.

Alvarez, Marissa C.
Brock, Malcolm T.
Eads, Amanda C.
Ingram, Paige N.
Kahalewai, Kristen K.
Merriit, Tyler J.
Cohen Jr., James I.
Torres, Marco A.
Luttrell Jr., Lewis S.
Tovar, Jeremias

Cpl.

Klabis, Robert G.
Just, Caleb V.
Villaloboz, James R.

Sgt.

Albsmeyer, James R.

Gunnery Sgt.

Inopiquez, Denver V.

COMMANDING FROM PAGE 1

and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer and the last three as station commanding officer.

In addition, Stewart said he spent a total of three years deployed to Iwakuni with other squadrons.

During his time in Iwakuni, his actions left a lasting impact by significantly improving the station.

"In May of 2010, just before I took command, we opened a new runway," said Stewart. "It was a 13-year project, and it saw the safety concerns and some of the noise burden on the local community alleviated and have seen quantitative proof every month and every year that it's been open."

In addition to the new airfield, some of Stewart's achievements here include the Local Implementation Agreements Signature Ceremony November 2012 and most recent being awarded the 2012 Marine Corps station safety award. However, the most memorable moment was making his dream come true.

"The opportunity to have escaped a small town in Idaho, not just to serve in defense of the republic, but to have the opportunity to fly as a primary career," said Stewart. "To have earned the title 'Officer of Marines' is phenomenal. To have had the opportunity to command not once, but twice, is far beyond an expectation that I ever would have made."

As Stewart reminisced on his past, he said with sincerity in his voice, that he will miss working alongside the people of the station. However, he said there is one thing he will miss the most.

"Because I have spent a majority of my commissioned service coming to Iwakuni, I will miss Western Japan," Stewart said passionately. "I have spent more time here than any other location in my Marine Corps career. It is home, and I talk of it in such terms that I will miss home...and it feels as if I'm leaving home once again."



STOCK PHOTO

“To have earned the title ‘Officer of Marines’ is phenomenal. To have had the opportunity to command not once, but twice, is far beyond an expectation that I ever would have made.

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan commanding officer

RETIREMENT FROM PAGE 1

side, and there were a lot of times as an aircraft maintainer that you hear about war fighting, but as a guy working on an F-18 on the flight line, sometimes it's hard to see. When I got the opportunity to be with them outside the wire, it took me that long before I truly understood about being a Marine warfighter and applying everything you have been trained and taught instead of just a notional exercise.”

Having worked alongside many people throughout his career, there was no loss of words to describe working with Brown.

“I have worked with him for about two years,” said Dave Garber, protocol officer. “He really brought the common sense approach to

the command, always taking care of Marines and sailors and even the civilians that work here or just live out in the surrounding area. He also doesn't have a shortage of stories, and I always enjoy listening to them.”

Though stationed in various locations throughout his career, Brown said that Iwakuni, Japan, will always hold a special place in his memories.

“Iwakuni is probably my fondest memory overall in the Marine Corps,” said Brown. “I’ve been coming here since the 80’s. I held the rank of lance corporal, corporal, staff sergeant, gunny, 1st sergeant, and sergeant major here at some point, so pretty much every rank except PFC and sergeant. I have seen this place grow from when there wasn’t even a Monzen bridge, before the exchange or Crossroads. When I first came, we lived in squad bays with 80 roommates. One day I may come back when all the construction is done just to see what it looks like at that point.”

After 26 years in the Marine Corps, Brown already has plans for life after in the civilian sector.

“I’ve had interviews with Vanderbilt University, Amazon, Veterans administration, you name it,” said Brown. “It’s kind of across the spectrum right now. I do have three or four months of terminal leave. I just want to get back, get settled and then try to decide on a job I’m willing to do for another 25 years if that’s possible.”

Brown spoke with a stronger sense of seriousness as he gave his closing remarks.

“There are young Marines and sailors out there that are going to look at me and say, ‘wow 26 years, that’s a long ways away,’” said Brown. “I’m here to tell you it goes by so fast. And I can still remember standing with my drill instructor in 1987 in Parris Island, South Carolina, and the conversations I had with my drill instructors. And it seems like it was just a month ago, and I woke up and it’s 26 years later.”



PFC. D. A. WALTERS

Lt. Col. Mike Carriero, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni S-1 and manpower director, cuts the cake after a retirement ceremony for local national employees at the Landing Zone inside Club Iwakuni, June 26, 2013. Eight local national employees received certificates for their commitment to service during the ceremony.

Local national employees retire with impressions, memories of servicemembers

DEDICATED FROM PAGE 1

“Their contribution here is that they have helped the relationship between the U.S. and Japan grow,” said Carreiro. “I personally feel it is a great luxury to work, talk and interact with Japanese citizens and workers on base. I genuinely appreciate them being on base and being partners and friends with my family and I.”

The eight local national employees receiving certificates were: Manabu Ishitaka, facilities general engineer, for 31 years of service. Hideo Tagawa, facilities laborer, for 18 years of service. Toshiyuki Kawamoto, facilities plasterer, for 30 years of service. Tetsuro Shigehiro, logistics general supply specialist, for 35 years of service. Hirokazu Yoshida, logistics administrative officer, for 27 years of service. Nobuyoshi Yoshiki, logistics air traffic specialist, for 29 years of service. Izumi Asakawa, Navy Calibration Laboratory elect engineering technician, 23 years of service, and Yoko Furumoto, NAVCALAB administrative specialist, for 26 years of service.

Hideo Tagawa began working aboard station 18 years ago and said the way he has seen servicemembers conduct themselves surprised him and had an impact on him and his views of the U.S. Military.

“I was able to see the Marines’ polite personality, for example, opening doors for others,” said Tagawa. “Marines are like robots, they are so focused on the mission and then can flip a switch to become friendly people and still be professional. It was a very good impression (of the military) I received.”

Local national employees’ services aboard station are important to the station’s success, because without them, some of the units may not have been able to accomplish what they need to.

Local national employees are a bridge between U.S. and Japan and translate our command messages to the Japanese public.

Marines may be here for two to three years at a time before they change duty stations, but local national employees remain a constant aboard station. They are the stability and subject matter experts.



CHILDREN

Laugh, play, splash with Marines, sailors

Children from the Yahata Gakuen Children's Home swim with Marines and sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 during a community relations event at the WaterWorks outdoor pool, June 30, 2013. The children whirled and splashed about in the pool with servicemembers to cool off from the activities that were played in the hot, humid weather earlier in the day.

PFC. D. A. WALTERS



PFC. D. A. WALTERS

A child from the Yahata Gakuen Children's Home plays soccer with Marines and sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 by the WaterWorks outdoor pool aboard station during a community relations event, June 30, 2013. Children and Marines used a shopping cart for a goal and also played other sports such as football and Frisbee.

PFC. D. A. WALTERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Children and staff from the Yahata Gakuen Children's Home visited the air station to play, eat and swim with Marines and sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 at the WaterWorks outdoor pool, June 30, 2013.

When children arrived at the pool aboard station they discovered bouncy houses and Marines waiting for them with toys, food and smiles.

According to Lt. Alexander J. Cho, MWSS-171 chaplain and organizer of the children's visit, it's important for servicemembers to interact with Japanese children and show them Marines and sailors are here for support.

"They get to see that Americans really care for them," said Cho. "Also, they are coming on a military base, so it gives them a very positive image about the (United States) military."

The children intermingled with Marines and sailors through various activities such as soccer, football and arm wrestling.

"I saw the same kid from last year's

visit," said Lance Cpl. Joey M. Pasillas, a MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator and event participant. "There is no communication whatsoever, but just doing activities like playing football or going swimming, I can see he is happy. It's really amazing to change someone's life and while I'm changing someone's life, for even a day, my life is changed."

Volunteers grilled hamburgers and hotdogs as children lined up with paper plates in their young, small hands waiting to be served.

With full stomachs, children were accompanied by Marines to enjoy the refreshing water of the pool for the remainder of the day.

According to Pasillas, not only did children have a positive effect on Marines and sailors, but servicemembers might have made a positive influence on some of the children and their views about the military.

"Just by facial expressions and how uplifted they were they seemed happy," said Pasillas. "I think it gives a good view (of the U.S. military). I hope they think of this as a helping hand; to say, 'hey, I care.'"



Part 2: Shoya does it all

Cook, Taste, Supervise

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Looking at the internal workings of Club Iwakuni, there are numerous sections of the kitchen with several chefs prepping, cooking and serving all different types of food. With so many tasks going on, sometimes it takes additional eyes to keep track of everything.

Our next chef in this four part series of culinary excellence is Seiji Shoya, Club Iwakuni supervisor.

Shoya's job title says it all. He taste checks the food, checks to see if the dish is presentable and supervises others to ensure everything is done correctly.

In addition to his supervision, Shoya's 32 years of experience gives him the skills and abilities to perform any task in the kitchen.

"He can do anything in this kitchen that needs to be done," said Troy Guyer, Club Iwakuni executive chef. "He does a lot of hands on, but we've got younger guys working the line. If we get jammed up, I can call Shoya over and he will jump into the line."

Along with his culinary skills, Shoya is also in charge of preparing large events, such as the buffet held in the Club Iwakuni ballroom, large parties and the biggest event of them all: the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Guyer said that they begin planning for the Marine Corps Ball at the beginning of June by preparing the menu, ordering the food and preparing sample dishes of the menu; which is completed

by Shoya.

"Preparing for the Marine Corps Ball is one of the most exciting parts of my job," said Shoya. "Last year, we served about 3,000 people, and to hear all the good comments is what makes me love my job."

As if supervising, planning and cooking weren't enough, Shoya has a hidden talent that pleases the eye instead of the tastebuds.

"He's tremendous at ice carving," said Guyer. "If I need an eagle, I'll make a rough sketch and ask him, 'This is what I need, can you do it? Can you do it in blue?' He's one of those individuals where you teach him one time and he can do it."

Reflecting on how experienced he has become, Shoya looks back as to how his journey began.

"When I was a kid, I never really got to eat a lot of food," said Shoya. "As I was growing up, I knew that I wanted to serve lots of people good tasting food. It wasn't until high school that I started studying culinary arts."

With everything that Shoya brings to the kitchen, he earns the respect of his fellow workers.

"He is the glue that holds the back of the kitchen together," said Guyer. "He's dependable, friendly and always looking to please; exactly what you would want if you were hiring someone."

With the culinary veteran getting close to his retirement, Shoya has already identified his plan for the future.

"Once I retire, I want to open a soba noodle shop in the United States," said Shoya. "Plus, I want to learn more about food from other countries."



Senji Shoya, Club Iwakuni supervisor, prepares a pineapple for an eating display for an upcoming party at Club Iwakuni at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, June 27, 2013.



Senji Shoya, Club Iwakuni supervisor, prepares a fruit display for an upcoming party at Club Iwakuni at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, June 27, 2013. Shoya is in charge of planning large events, including the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



Seiji Shoya, Club Iwakuni supervisor, performs a taste test at Club Iwakuni at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, June 27, 2013. Shoya has been working at Club Iwakuni for 32 years and is capable of doing any task in the kitchen.

Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine

World Heritage Site, silver lining in Japan's story

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

In 1526, Kamiya Jutei, a Japanese merchant, discovered the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine.

The mine supplied large quantities of silver for Japan and countries it traded with; most notably during the 16th and 17th centuries when the silver produced went toward funding the Ouchi, Amago and Mori clans during Sengoku-jidi, the age of the country at war.

While the mine stayed open for nearly 400 years, closing in 1923, it didn't become a World Heritage Site until 2007. Today, the mine and its surrounding attractions bring in tourists from all over the world.

The mine is located in Omori Town, Oda City, Shimane prefecture and is an approximate three-hour bus ride from Hiroshima.

For more information on the silver mine and its inclusive landscape, search <http://ginzan.city.ohda.lg.jp/wh/en/index.html>.



Three arched bridges stand in front of the Rakan-ji Gohyakurakan, a shrine etched into the side of a mountain, located nearby the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, June 29, 2013. The shrine contains five hundred stone statues that were crafted in the 18th century.

FACT

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine became a World Heritage Site in 2007. According to the Iwami Ginzan World Heritage Center, a site is a natural property deemed to be worthy of preservation for the benefit of humanity, and it is chosen based on the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.



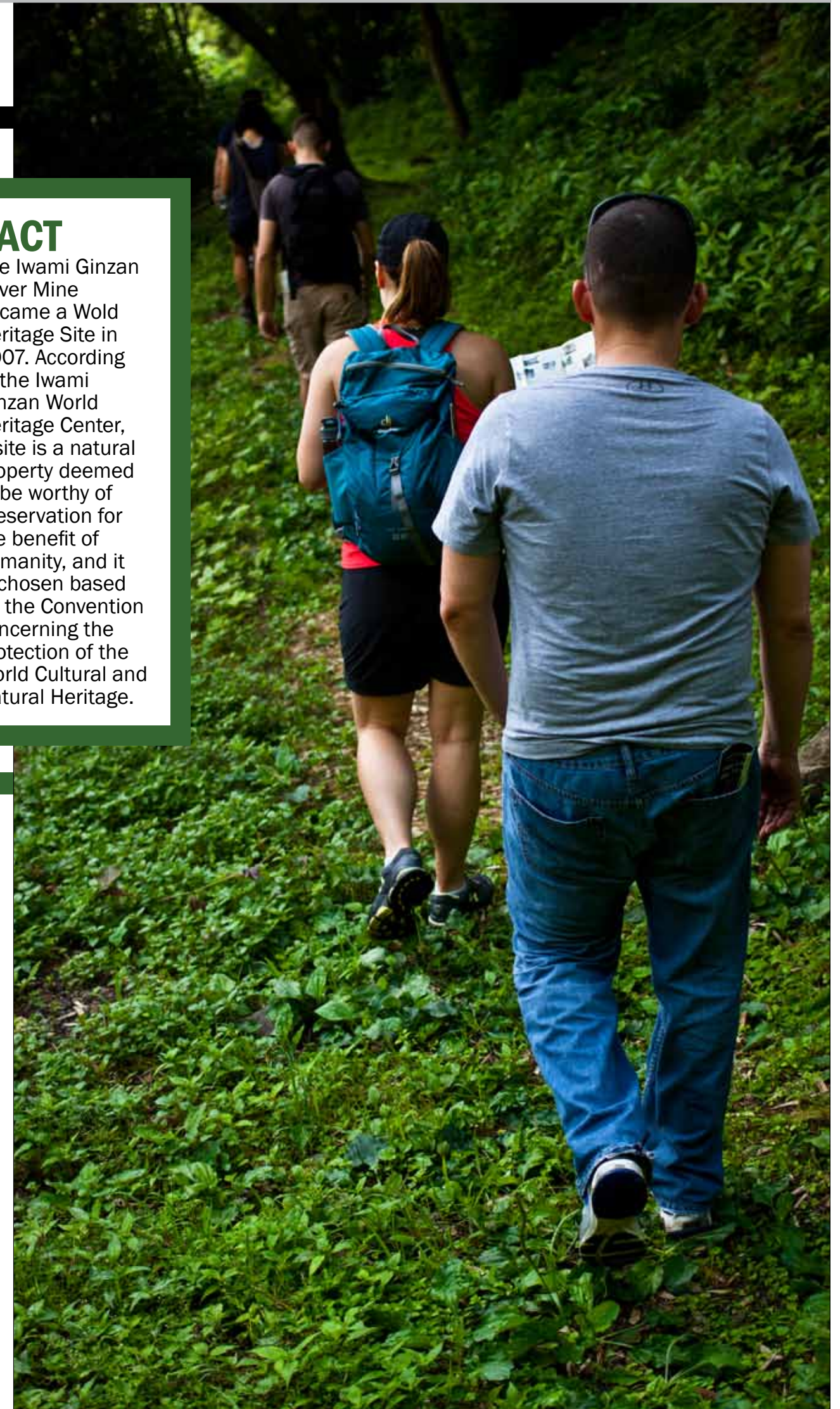
Staff Sgt. Philip Roderick, Marine Aircraft Group 12 career planner and Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine tourist, translates a tour guide's explanation of the silver mine while motioning toward a three-dimensional model of the local landscape, June 29, 2013. A visitor center, which includes an informational tour, is located a few minutes' drive from the model.



An Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine tour guide explains a display to tourists inside one of the mine tunnels, June 29, 2013. Tour guides bring groups through the tunnel the displays, which depict life working in the mine.



Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine tourists look around a local silver shop located on one of the paths throughout the local area, June 29, 2013. A majority of items for sale inside the shop were made of pure silver.



Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine tourists traverse one of the paths of the World Heritage site, June 29, 2013. Visitors spent hours traveling across a maze of possible avenues in the effort of exploring.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Halfway to home

CPL. KYLE N. RUNNELS
U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES PACIFIC

USS KEARSARGE, At sea — Sailing through the Fifth and Sixth Fleet areas of responsibility on three Navy vessels assigned to the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group, Marines and sailors with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit have made it to the halfway mark of returning home to their friends and family during their 2013 deployment. The journey thus far has given the Marines and sailors an ample amount of experiences in various countries, presenting them unique opportunities they would not have had the chance to receive in any other situation. “The MEU allows Marines and sailors to see different parts of the world and experience different cultures while conducting training that may help with real world contingencies,” said Maj. James T. Kay, fire support officer assigned to the 26th MEU. “Marines get to see places that most people only get to read about in a text book or see on a map. The places we visit carry a lot of history and to say you have been there and done that gives everyone a sense of accomplishment.” Through the deployment, the Marines and sailors conducted unilateral, bilateral and multilateral training evolutions, taking place in countries such as France, Greece, Qatar and Jordan. “Each nation has their own method of conducting business and so it allows our Marines and sailors to understand that while we are an elite fighting force, there are other foreign nations that are capable of accomplishing the mission even if it’s by their own method,” said Kay. “There will always be frustration and challenges when conducting these unique training opportunities but it allows us to build stronger, lasting relationships with the military and civilians of foreign countries.” The success of the operations can be attributed to the extensive sixth months of pre-deployment training conducted after the MEU’s composite in the fall of 2012. “The [pre-deployment training program] solidified standard operating procedures for all Marines and sailors down to the smallest unit,” said Kay. “It helped all reinforcements realize what did and did not work during the



A U.S. Marine assigned to Battalion Landing Team 3/2, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), fast ropes from a CH-53 Super Stallion assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 (Reinforced), 26th MEU, during familiarization training on the flight deck of the USS Kearsarge, at sea, June 30, 2013.

PTP. Like in everything, we made mistakes, but we took corrective actions so that when we actually have to execute a mission, we try not to make the same mistake twice. The biggest lesson learned is the many moving parts, including the ships and its movements, that require close and continuous coordination with all assets of the [Amphibious Ready Group] and MEU in order to facilitate successful missions.” Before deploying, the 26th MEU was called into action to conduct humanitarian relief efforts in the New York Tri-State area in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. “Hurricane Sandy showed that the MEU is able to pack, mobilize and deploy in a short amount of time to provide humanitarian assistance or disaster relief if necessary and has been one of the most utilized missions in past MEU deployments,” said Kay. The Marines and sailors haven’t forgotten, the ones they left behind that chilly day in March as they left Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune or Marine Corps Air Stations New River or Cherry Point to embark upon the deployment.

“To keep in touch with my friends and family back home I try to write them letters at least once a week, or if I get to access a computer, I email them,” said Cpl. Nhi Thach, a Gaithersburg, Md., native, and combat engineer assigned to Battalion Landing Team 3/2, 26th MEU. “I also try to call them at least once a week. They keep me going by saying how much they miss me. They are very supportive and give me words of advice to keep on going reminding me, I will be back home soon. I also get packages from my girlfriend which always puts a smile on my face.” Without knowing what to expect on the waters ahead, most everyone with the 26th MEU and its ARG counterpart can agree the light is visible at the end of the tunnel, and it is all downhill from here. Kay said, “There are a few more training evolutions for sustaining perishable skills and exercises planned for Theater Security Cooperation...that will help move time along on this deployment, but as the world turns, this can always be altered by those unpredictable occurrences in the world or natural disasters that require the MEU’s attention.”



Marines assigned to Company L, Battalion Landing Team 3/2, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, provide suppressive fire during a platoon attack exercise during Exercise Eager Lion 2013, in Al Quweira, Jordan, June 17, 2013. Exercise Eager Lion 2013 is an annual, multinational exercise. The 26th MEU is a Marine Air-Ground Task Force forward-deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility aboard the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group serving as a sea-based, expeditionary crisis response force capable of conducting amphibious operations across the full range of military operations.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Nutrition Information Class
A Nutrition Video Tele Conference class is scheduled at the conference room in the Branch Health Clinic Aug. 16, 2013, from 11 a.m.- 12 p.m. Lt. j.g. Elaina Ortiz, U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, will discuss basic nutrition information including weight management, and other topics pertaining to healthier dietary lifestyle changes. To sign up or for more information, call 253-3445. Sign up is open until Aug. 13.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans
The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society provides Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$500, interest-free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information,

call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

Contractor Gate
Recently, the Contractor Gate has experienced traffic congestion due to heavy use. Due to the congestion, the Provost Marshal’s Office requests that personnel who are not contractors (Active Duty Military, JMSDF, MLC/IHA employees, etc.) access the installation via the Main Gate or Monzen Gate and refrain from using the Contractor Gate, including bicycle riders. For more information, call 253-6942.

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.

Jobs

ESP Position
Engineering Support Personnel, Inc. is seeking qualified simulators/electronics/IT technicians for its WESTPAC COMS program. Applicants are required to have a minimum of four years electronics maintenance experience and be a graduate from a two-year

electronics technician resident course or equivalent. The ability to obtain a Secret Security Clearance is required. Positions are located at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan; Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. Applicants should send their resume to John Russell at jrussell@espinc1.com or FAX to (407) 206-4921.

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 would like to be published. You may submit your brief or advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please provide all necessary information to simplify the request process. The deadline for all submissions is 3 p.m. Friday.

1st MAW CG speaks to servicemembers, conducts final tour as CG

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Servicemembers aboard station received a visit from Maj. Gen. Christopher Owens, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, June 28, 2013. During his stop at Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, he talked about how the MAW and Marine Aircraft Groups are performing. “Because of our pace for the last couple of months, I haven’t had a chance to be up here,” said Owens. “Since I had today, I decided to visit all of the wing units that are here.” Owens added that his visit was part of a last tour before his change of command on July 9, 2013. “The wing has accomplished a lot in the last year,” said Owens. “Introduction of the Osprey, execution of a number of high-profile exercises and operations, and I’m very proud of how the wing has done. My contribution has been minimal, but the wing itself has done extremely well.” While reflecting on the achievements of the past, Owens began to address plans and operations for the future. “I see a couple more years of change and growth in capability,” said Owens. “We have (Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4), the first unit deployment program deployment of a VMAQ in about six years. A little bit farther south, we will be introducing another squadron of Ospreys, restarting UDPs for (Sikorsky CH-53 transport helicopters) and (AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters) and then in a few more years, we will introduce the joint strike fighter to Iwakuni.” In addition, Owens’ addressed continued reinforcement of the sexual assault prevention and response movements that are ongoing in the Marine Corps. Along with addressing the masses, Owens took time to address VMFA(AW)-242 as a unit and their progress.



Maj. Gen. Christopher Owens, 1st Marine Air Wing commanding general, talks with servicemembers from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 in the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, June 28, 2013. Owens visited all of the wing units aboard station as part of his final tour as 1st MAW CG.

“One of the things he talked about with us is that we had some issues we needed to overcome and we spent the last year building a team and getting back a positive performance curve,” said Lt. Col. Bruce Gordon, VMFA(AW)-242 commanding officer. “We saw during our own maintenance inspection in the last week of May that all the work we put in for the last year got us to that high point. So now we need to maintain that level and sustain.” While addressing the unit, Owens took the time to recognize Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Fuentes, VMFA(AW)-242 communication navigation radar system technician, who won Marine of the Quarter, for the

squadron, and presented her with a challenge coin. In his closing remarks, he addressed the upcoming change of command and passionately spoke about his time spent with the wing. “It has been a tremendous honor to serve with the forward deployed wing of the Marine Corps,” said Owens. “Out here in this theater, there is so much going on and so many opportunities in the Pacific (Area of Responsibility). It’s been a true pleasure to be a part of that. I’m glad that in the job I’m going to, I will be able to continue to maintain that partnership with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.”

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

THE 43RD KURASHIKI TENRYO SUMMER FESTIVAL

July 20, 2013, from 3-9:30 p.m. at Kurashiki Ekimae Shopping Arena and Ario Kurashiki event stage, Kurashiki City, Okayama Pref. The main street (Kurashiki Chuo-dori) is scheduled to be filled with dancing, a parade and Tenryo Takio Drummers. A Kurashiki Komachi (beauty contest), photo contest and cheerleading performances. Vendors will be present but no parking is available. The event site starts just in front of JR Kurashiki station. For more information, contact the Kurashiki chamber of commerce at 086-424-2111.

THE 24TH MIYOSHI COOL OF SUMMER FIREWORKS

July 20, 2013, from 8-9:30 p.m. there will be a firework display at Tomoe Bridge, Tokaichi-nishi, Miyoshi City, Hiroshima Pref. The display will include 7,000 fireworks and free parking is available, but public transportation is encouraged to avoid traffic jams. The event site is a 15 minute walk from JR Miyoshi Station. For more information, contact Miyoshi Tourist Association at 0824-63-9268.

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

Friday, July 12, 2013 1 p.m. Rise of the Guardians (2012) (PG) 7 p.m. The Internship (PG-13) 10 p.m. Olympus has Fallen (R)	Monday, July 15, 2013 1 p.m. Madagascar 3 (2012) (PG) 7 p.m. Olympus has Fallen (R)
Saturday, July 13, 2013 4 p.m. Now You See Me (PG-13) 7 p.m. Fast & Furious 6 (R)	Tuesday, July 16, 2013 Theater closed
Sunday, July 14, 2013 4 p.m. After Earth (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Purge (R)	Wednesday, July 17, 2013 Theater closed
	Thursday, July 18, 2013 1 p.m. Hotel for Dogs (2009) (PG) 7 P.M. The Internship (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 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



In Japan, you say "itadakimasu" ("I gratefully receive") before eating, and "gochisosama (deshita)" ("Thank you for the meal") after finishing the meal. Below are a few lessons on how to eat some Japanese food favorites. To eat rice hold the bowl in one hand and chopsticks in the other. Lift the bowl towards your mouth while eating and do not pour soy sauce over white, cooked rice. When eating sushi you are supposed to eat each piece in one bite. Hands or chopsticks may be used to eat sushi. To consume Miso Soup, drink the soup out of the bowl as if it were a cup and fish out the solid food pieces with your chopsticks. To eat noodles use chopsticks to lead noodles into your mouth. You may want to try and copy the slurping sound of the people around you if you are dining in a noodle shop. Slurping noodles is considered evidence of enjoying the meal. In the case of noodle soups, be careful of splashing the noodles back into the liquid. If a ceramic spoon is provided, use it to drink the soup, otherwise, lift the bowl to your mouth as if it were a cup. "Kareraisu," Japanese style curry rice and other rice dishes, in which the rice is mixed with a sauce may become difficult to eat with chopsticks. Large spoons are often provided for these dishes. Separate into bite-sized pieces with your chopsticks, or just bite off a piece and put the rest back onto your plate.



Participants ride bikes, scooters and walk during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Independence Day Parade that circled the Parade deck block aboard station, July 4, 2013. Bikes, scooters and helmets were decorated in red, white and blue as they kept on trucking through the rain to show their American pride.

Rain, shine, MCAS Iwakuni still shows 4th of July pride

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. D. A. WALTERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron hosted a Fourth of July Parade that circled the parade deck here, July 4, 2013. The parade consisted of Marines, spouses and children dressed up in festive red, white and blue walking on the road following a military police vehicle and another car, driven by Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral playing holiday specific music to show their patriotism. Katherine A. West, H&HS family readiness officer, was in charge of putting together the parade for this year. It was her first time organizing the parade, and she wanted to try and duplicate a home-like feeling for Americans aboard station. "It's important to celebrate our independence," said West. "Even though we are in a different country, people still want to celebrate. It's nice to celebrate independence as a community." Despite the dark clouds in the sky and heavy rain, participants still showed up to walk the streets around the parade deck with their heads high and smiles on their faces. "There were a lot of people there who were excited about (the parade). They were excited about it, and it was bigger than last year," said West. "I think it was a



Participants ride bikes, scooters and walk during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Independence Day Parade that circled the Parade deck block aboard station, July 4, 2013.

great turn out." Independence Day, also known as Fourth of July is a federal holiday celebrated with parades, music and festivities to remember our founding fathers and the lives lost during the American Revolutionary War to make The United States of America what it is today. The American Revolution was the war in which the Thirteen Colonies fought for their independence from Great Britain and the war's goal was achieved, July 2, 1776. It was then, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve the resolution of independence and declare the United States independent from Great Britain. After debating and revising the wording of the Declaration of Independence, Congress approved it on July 4, 1776. Americans celebrate Independence Day each year, but each person's view may differ on what the day means to them on a more personal level. "Fourth of July means to me the celebration of our independence," said Lt. Col. F. L. Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer. "More importantly in the Declaration of Independence is we are all created equal, and we all have certain rights. That is the foundation of our nation and the foundation of our ethics and core values for the Marine Corps."

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Nov. 20, 1992, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on the arrival of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 235 to Australia in support of Exercise Valiant Usher '92 and North Aces '92, the accomplishments of Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 during their 6-month tour on station, and paper lanterns as unique artifacts of Japan. Below Capt. James C. Stewart is pictured en route to Australia.

