

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 31 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Raise awareness, raise attendance

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The new school year has begun aboard station Aug. 26, 2013, at Matthew C. Perry Elementary and High Schools and already expectations are high for a prosperous and educational experience for the young minds attending.

Station commanding officer, Col. Bob Boucher, gave his opening comments, on the new school year, outside of the M.C. Perry Elementary school.

"Today, I mostly wanted to welcome the students and the parents to the new school year and give the students the message to set goals for themselves and to let them know that the teachers and faculty here at M. C. Perry are ready to teach them," said Boucher. "All you need to do is to come prepared, ready to learn and to

be on time. I want everyone to get engaged and get involved in the school. For (those new to M.C. Perry), such as myself, see what you can do to help out with the school, to get involved and to volunteer."

It has been said that the progress of the minds of the young is what is most important in any school. Another saying goes that an absent mind is an untrained one.

If that is true, then the lingering concerns about absenteeism and tardiness rates from last year are justifiable.

"This is my second year here, and I believe that tardiness and absences can be improved," said Lorenzo Brown, M.C. Perry High School principal. "One thing that could improve tardiness and absences would be if the parents registered for GradeSpeed and

SEE **SCHOOL** ON PAGE 3

OPME courses begin soon, enroll now

PFC. D. A. WALTERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

College of Distance Education and Training representatives hosted a seminar aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, for Officer Professional Military Education in the Building One auditorium Aug. 19, 2013.

Representatives from the university included, Col. (Ret) James P. Hopkins, regional director, Col. (Ret) Dale Smith, Command and Staff College regional chief instructor and Maj. (Ret) Scott Uecker, Expeditionary Warfare School regional chief instructor.

All officers aboard station were invited to the seminar and 30 attended including the station commanding officer and executive officer.

The purpose of the seminar was to give officers rank O-1 through O-4 and Chief Warrant Officers more information and help them enroll into classes that are highly recommended for promotion.

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SOUTHERN FRONTIER

Marines, sailors give back to community

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SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

A child from the Jilkminggan community helps Marines and sailors paint a school building during a visit with the Aboriginal community, Aug. 24, 2013. While at Jilkminggan, the servicemembers not only helped improved the community, they also went fishing with the Aboriginals and toured their land.

Former Vietnam POW visits MCAS Iwakuni, speaks to servicemembers

CPL. B. A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Retired Navy Capt. Gerald Coffee, a Vietnam veteran held captive as a prisoner of war for seven years, visited Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to talk to servicemembers about his experiences and give a motivational speech at the Sakura Theater Aug. 20, 2013.

The professional military education opportunity lasted for an hour and included a meet

and greet at the conclusion of Coffee's speech.

"I feel it's important because so few of us have an experience like this," said Coffee. "When I left Vietnam, I felt a definite responsibility to capitalize on that experience and to share the insights that come with going through it, but most importantly, to explain that we all have the power, not just to survive like that, but to make it work in our favor."

Coffee started his speech by telling servicemembers about his life in the Hoa

Lo Prison and how it was important to stay physically fit, despite the inadequate diet.

"I ended up walking miles a day in that tiny little cell three steps at a time," said Coffee. "I would start exercises early in the morning before it got too hot outside."

Coffee then spoke about some key factors that helped make his survival as a POW possible.

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BOOKS

Marines hit the books during COMREL | P. 4



FLAME

ARFF puts out burning ring of fire | P. 5



FOOTBALL

Samurai prepare for second season | P. 11





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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

'What defines you'

LT. FULGENCIO L. LEGASPI
H&HS CHAPLAIN

I like the movie “Batman Begins” (2005). In that movie, there is a scene which I think could be one of the most beautiful scenes ever created.

In this scene Rachel Dawes said, “You could die, at least tell me your name.”

But Batman responded, “It’s not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me.”

What defines a person? What defines you? What defines us?

Those are tough questions. According to Batman, the name is not the essential thing, but the act is.

Batman is known by this name because of his “bat-like” uniform. But, hidden underneath the

uniform is the millionaire Bruce Wayne, which nobody knew.

A person can be identified by their birth name, servicemembers wearing an official uniform, minus the “mask,” can be identified by the name tape or name tag.

However, even without the uniform, a servicemember can still be identified by their haircut, clothes they wear, or ID card he or she carries.

Nowadays, an individual (dead or alive) can be identified by the science of DNA testing.

What defines a person? Borrowing Batman’s response: “It’s not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me.”

My answer will be, “It’s not him/her underneath the uniform, but what he/she does that defines the person.”

Who are you then?

What do you do as a person regardless of being a civilian or military?

Narrowing down the question,

“What defines a Marine, sailor, airman or soldier?”

I think the best I can give is this: Whatever the core values of the different military services, which the servicemember has embraced, defines him or her.

With that being said, every servicemember is called to serve and share the charism. In a general point of view, everyone is called.

Whether single or married, we are called and are identified by way of words and actions we live.

As for me, I am an individual, a Christian, a child of God, my Father and Creator; sanctified by the Holy Spirit, my comforter and; saved by Jesus Christ, my Savior and brother.

I am an individual gifted by God with faith, hope and love. As a person I am called to serve God and Humanity.

If someone asks you: “You could die, tell me your name?” What will your answer be?

Marine Memorial Chapel hosts Bible School

STORY AND PHOTO BY
LANCE CPL.
ANTONIO J. RUBIO
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Marine Memorial Chapel hosted a Vacation Bible School aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 19 – 23.

Vacation Bible schools incorporated a Bible verse and message with a Bible buddy to help the children remember the word of God. A Bible buddy is a cartoon version of biblical characters, and portrayed the overall theme for the day. Other characters were used to help explain VBS’

messages.

“Each day kids will get one of the Bible buddies and the Bible verse of the day, so by the time they leave here, they will have 5 days and 5 buddies to remind them (of the verses and messages),” said Linda Brown, VBS coordinator.

Infusing Bible verses with bible buddies helps children retain the importance behind the messages throughout VBS, said Brown.

Every day there were multiple stations that used different teaching techniques to help the children learn.

“Children learn at different levels,” said Brown. “You have those

that learn by seeing, music, (or) touch. Each one of these stations is towards those kids so it’s easy learning for them.”

Tuesday, the Bible buddy was Duke; a horse who symbolizes, family and friends helps us to stand strong.

One of the stations uses the biblical character Ester to help reiterate the message of Duke.

Within the station, Ester’s story unfolds. The children role played, were lectured and helped Ester conquer her fear of execution by asking the king for help to rebuild the city.

Kids yelled, “Family and friends help us stand strong!,” giving

Ester the courage to confront the king. Exercises like these help kids to stand up for one another, said Brown.

“My favorite Bible buddy character would have to be Duke,” said Lance. Cpl. Charles Aguilar, Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 12 ground support equipment mechanic and VBS volunteer.

“He teaches a very important message that your family, and friends stay strong for each other and you can sit there and stay strong for your family and friends as well.”

Standing strong is easy when you have God in your life is the overall message VBS is trying to teach the children, said Brown.

However, it’s not just about the children learning about the word of God.

“Everyone has something to learn from this,” said Aguilar. “It’s just not us being there for the children, we can also learn from them.”

Learning at VBS is fun and exciting for the whole family, you can use the time to bond, said Brown.

Strength not only comes in the form of muscles, but is also spiritual.

“We want the kids to leave from here understanding the strength they will have with God being a part of their lives,” said Brown.



Col. Bob Boucher, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, commanding officer, delivers his opening remarks in front of the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here, Aug. 26, 2013. Boucher encouraged the kids to set goals for the new school year, encouraged the parents to volunteer and raise awareness to the issues of absences and tardiness.

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set up ‘attendance triggers.’”

According to Brown, GradeSpeed is an optional program offered by Department of Defense schools that allows more interaction for parents.

“We can’t force anyone to sign up for it; it is optional,” said Brown. “In addition to being able to keep track of their grades, (GradeSpeed) also has the attendance component to it. If the students are tardy or absent, the parents will get an email. GradeSpeed is very useful and both parents can register for it. So, if one parent has to leave, the spouse here will still get the email.”

Boucher also shared his thoughts on the topic of school attendance.

“There are going to be a lot of challenges this year, with all the construction that is going on around the base,” said Boucher. “It is going to take extra time in the morning to get your kids to school, so we appreciate the parents and siblings that will be walking kids to school, in order to get them there on time. We would really like to reduce the number of absences we had from last year, so any efforts on (parents’) part, to reduce absenteeism and tardiness, would greatly help out the school.”

Contact the M.C. Perry schools for PTO meeting times, dates, volunteer opportunities and to get involved with school spirit. Register for GradeSpeed at <https://dodea.gradespeed.net/pc/default.aspx>

OFFICER FROM PAGE 1

“There are two (messages why the seminar was held)... What professional military education programs or options are available to Marine officers of the ranks of captain and major, CWO-3, CWO-4, and officers of other ranks, like first lieutenants, that want to get an early start in PME,” said Hopkins. “The second part of the message for the officers was if you are going to enroll, then enroll now.”

Officers can begin classes at their current duty station, either online or onsite, and can continue classes at any military installation if they change duty stations for any reason.

It is an extremely easy process to transfer the credits of temporary additional duty, unit deployment programs or permanent change of duty station Marines to keep them on the same class schedule, according to Uecker.

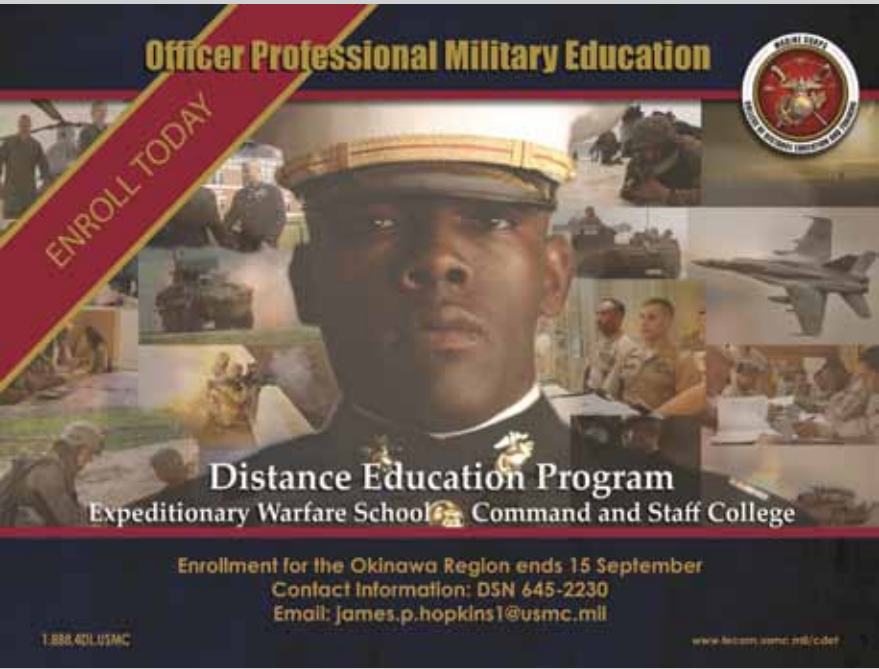
“We have a synchronized

academic year,” said Hopkins. “We teach the same lessons during the same week. A person could be home ported right here in Iwakuni, but he can attend, as a temporary student, seminars in Miramar and not miss anything during the academic year.”

Online classes are available where assignments and discussions are conducted via internet. Discussions are held in an open-board format, which allow attendees to debate content assigned for the class.

On site classes are available on military installations with instructors dependent on the number of officers enrolled. Discussions regarding assignments are conducted face-to-face and take place once a week in a classroom setting.

The university helps fulfill the recommended OPME for promotion, defines leadership roles and prepares Marines for



their upcoming responsibilities as they move through the officer ranks, said Hopkins.

All OMPE courses begin Oct. 1, 2013. Contact Hopkins at

James.P.Hopkins1@usmc.mil, Smith at Dale.m.smith.ctr@usmc.mil or Uecker at scott.uecker.ctr@usmc.mil to enroll today.

CAPTAIN FROM PAGE 1

“I began to realize, while I was in prison, that my survival would be dependent on my faith, when I say that people tend to think it’s spiritual faith and that’s part of it, but I mean faith in myself, faith in my fellow prisoners there...and faith in our country,” said Coffee. “I never gave up the hope. I always knew that I would be a free man. I never lost faith that I would come home and that made a huge difference.”

Coffee said that the experience made him a better person. When

he finally did come home, he met his seven-year-old son for the first time, completed his master’s degree in political science and even wrote a book to elaborate on his experiences.

“I get really positive feedback from my book,” said Coffee. “My wife just told me that I got another email from a young female in the military who said that it’s the most inspirational book she’s ever read. That makes me feel really good, but it’s also a feeling of accomplishment, that all those years in a communist prison weren’t just for nothing.”

Coffee’s wife, Susan Page, is a journalist who writes a column for a newspaper in Hawaii, where she and Coffee currently live.

“I’m a story teller, and I have a great story,” said Page. “I think my role is to help him tell his story and encourage him.”

Telling his story is something that Coffee said he feels obligated to do and enjoys doing.

“It’s my way to give back,” said Coffee. “The information that I want to impart today is that even though we may not be tested often, when we are tested we can pass. We can pass with

flying colors. We can do far more than just pass. The fact is that we all have it in us to survive horrendous circumstances. If I can plant that seed of belief somewhere in your mind that had it been you with the little rubber tired sandals all those years, you could have survived and gone beyond survival for the very same reasons that I did. There is nothing special about me. I want to help people to understand that there is good reason to have faith in themselves, and that you can overcome obstacles that you couldn’t even imagine.”

Alyssa Brickman, 9, listens to a story from the bible during Vacation Bible School aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 20, 2013. Many lessons are taught at VBS to help the children be more familiar with the Bible.



Seaman Sean Woodall, a religious program specialist with Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, works on word pronunciation with a student at the Macfarlane Elementary School in Katherine, Australia, during a community relations event Aug. 16, 2013. Servicemembers visited the school to assist with the literacy program and provide positive role models for the students.

Marines, sailors go 'back to school' in Australia

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

KATHERINE, Australia — Marines and sailors participating in Exercise Southern Frontier 2013, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force at RAAF Base Tindal, Australia, went back to school during a community relations event Aug. 16.

The event aimed to help improve literacy skills for students at Macfarlane Elementary School in Katherine, Australia, which is RAAF Base Tindal's neighboring town. Servicemembers read books, helped with arts-and-crafts and played sports with students.

Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, chaplain for Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, scheduled the event to allow service members off base and to provide a positive role model for local youth.

Lance Cpl. Faith Cummings, an aviation supply Marine with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, was one Marine who participated in

the school visit. Cummings said she volunteered for the trip because she likes to be around children and plans on going to college to study early childhood development.

"I enjoyed the visit because I was able to learn a lot about the kids," said Cummings. "By being able to read with the kids I was able to see that they were all at different reading levels and that some of them were really shy and some were very outspoken."

Once arriving, the event coordinators divided up each participant into their own class. This ensured each servicemember had a different experience while at the school.

"I was with a transition class so I was working with kids from kindergarten to first grade," said Cpl. Stephenie Stombaugh, a motor transportation operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. "They were all getting ready for the next grade level, so we did simple stuff like learning shapes and counted from one to twenty and then we tried doing it in reverse."

Stombaugh said her favorite portion of the school visit was when it was time for the students

to have recess. During this time, she was able to work with individual students and even had time to show the boys in the class how to make paper airplanes and hats.

While Stombaugh, who has four brothers and is a state-certified babysitter, says she is comfortable around children, she also said events like this are a great way for people who are not.

"I think it's a great opportunity, especially if you aren't comfortable with kids," said Stombaugh. "It actually helps you get out of your uncomfortable zone, because not all of them are comfortable. Many of the students were shy, but they slowly grow on you as they see you participate with them. They will grab your hand and be like, 'hey look at this,' but they'll slowly do it, so it's a process that you do with them."

This event marked the second of eight planned visits to the school by servicemembers. In addition to the school visits, Marines and sailors with SF13 are scheduled to spend two weekends working with local indigenous tribes in Australia's Northern Territory.



Cpl. Stephenie Stombaugh, a motor transportation operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, helps a student with an arts-and-crafts project at the Macfarlane Elementary School in Katherine, Australia, during a community relations event Aug. 16, 2013. The Marines are scheduled to visit the school and work with students twice a week for the duration of Exercise Southern Frontier.



A LOOK INTO THE BLAZE: PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE

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

Shortly after the sun emerges from the horizon, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan residents may see black smoke rise in the distance to break the sky line from the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Marines practice burns some Friday mornings.

A circular pit filled with water up to the Marines' ankles serves as the practice burn pit. Jet fuel is then dumped into the water and then set on fire to create a giant blaze.

Two Marines are assigned to one hose and stand right behind each other. The Marine in front mans the hose and controls where the water is going, while the Marine behind him places his hand on his shoulder for balance, and to watch the fire to make sure it doesn't wrap around behind them.

As the Marine manning the hose sprays one side, the Marine behind him closely watches the other.

When the fire begins to wrap around, or spread, to the side the Marine behind is watching, he gives the front man a tap on the hip, dependent of the side he is watching, and repeats that until the blaze is extinguished.

Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting conducts burns in order to prepare Marines to extinguish fires where people's lives, or their own, are at risk.

"This is live fire, and fire is unpredictable," said Sgt. Titus G. Almazan, ARFF senior rescuer. "You have to teach (junior Marines) how to attack a fire...it's real fire, and if you don't do it right, it's going to come behind you and you have to figure out how to get out of it. The main purpose is if we have worst case scenario, where we have fuel spill on the deck and you have a pilot trapped inside, they know how



Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Marines extinguish a fire during live-fire training at the burn pit aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 23, 2013. While conducting live-fire training, two Marines man the hose while a senior Marine observes closely to make sure they are performing the proper procedures. ARFF Marines Conduct this type of training a few times a month, generally on Fridays, to stay proficient in their training so they can effectively respond to any crisis.

they are going to attack it to push that fire away from the cockpit, so the rescue man can get in there and get the pilot out. That's the main purpose of doing burns like this."

Almazan took time to reflect back to 2010, when he was involved in the largest fire of his career while stationed in Afghanistan.

"When we responded, we didn't have enough trucks or gear to tackle a fire like that. We just had to do what we could," said Almazan. "While we were in the fire, a sandstorm hit and completely shifted where the fire was, and it surrounded the trucks. We lost two trucks that

burned up in the fire...We didn't know how to get out, or where we could get out from."

Almazan said he believes that any sort of experience or knowledge one senior Marine has should be passed down to junior Marines, because that may be the knowledge necessary to save someone's life.

Lance Corporal Mark S. Nesbitt, ARFF rescuer, is a junior Marine under Almazan. Like Almazan, Nesbitt passes along the knowledge he has gained to his junior Marines in order to make sure their lives are in better hands.

"Before you go in, you're talking

to your back-up man, because it's important to him to keep you alive," said Nesbitt. "If he is not doing his job, then it's going to affect you, and you are both going to go down."

Almazan said he knows the dangers and risks of his job, but was humble when discussing why he still carries out his duties as an ARFF Marine.

"It's similar to what everyone joins the Marines for," said Almazan. "You want to do your part and serve. This is just a step above that. It's putting yourself in harm's way just because someone has to do it, and someone has to protect (other people)."

Servicemembers volunteer time to local community

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — When Marines visit an area, they make it a goal to leave that area in better condition than when they arrived.

This mentality was put into action when Marines and sailors, participating in Exercise Southern Frontier, visited the Aboriginal community, Jilkmिंगgan in Australia's Northern Territory.

Jilkmिंगgan is a community of about 250 indigenous Australians approximately 100 miles south of Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, where the servicemembers are involved in the exercise.

Twenty-four volunteers from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 participated in the community relations effort.

Jilkmिंगgan rests alongside a portion of the Roper River, an emerald green river, which provides opportunities for the locals to fish for barramundi, a popular local fish. The community consists of small houses, a community store and school.

Lt. Cmdr. Denise Wallingford, the chaplain for MAG-12, organized the visit with the help of Jilkmिंगgan traditional owners Sheila Conway and Jessie Roberts.

"Last year, the Chaplain from MWSS-171 worked with the Jilkmिंगgan community and he put me in contact with them for this year's exercise," said Wallingford. "We were introduced through email and began coordinating before I left Iwakuni."

One reason the community may have been eager to welcome back the Marines is the positive image the Marines left the last time they visited. During last year's visit, the Marines were able to help extinguish a house fire that, if not for the Marines, would have destroyed the house.

"The traditional owners granted more than twice the amount of Marines to visit this year compared to last year, which is incredible," said Wallingford. "In fact, the next time we are bringing three more Marines because of the way they handled the horses this time. It's going to be almost three times the amount of people they were initially going to allow, which means they are becoming much more comfortable with us."

The community invited three Marines back because of their hard work corralling 12 horses. The horses have roamed free since Elsey Station closed, which was the local cattle station, where some of the Aboriginal people who live in Jilkmिंगgan worked.

While corralling horses was not originally a part of the trip, the opportunity appeared when Marines passed a herd of horses outside of the community. Some of the Marines volunteered their free time to help with corralling the horses after they finished their commitment of painting a school building and digging a trench for irrigation.

Lance Cpl. Matthew Amador, an aviation logistics information management specialist with VMFA(AW)-242, participated in the visit and made the most of his time by helping out with all three of

the special projects the Marines completed.

"During the trip I was able to help paint the school building, dig part of the trenches for the irrigation lines, and I also got to help catch some of the horses that were roaming around," said Amador. "I didn't have much experience in painting, but it was fun. I really enjoyed it when the local children came up and helped us paint."

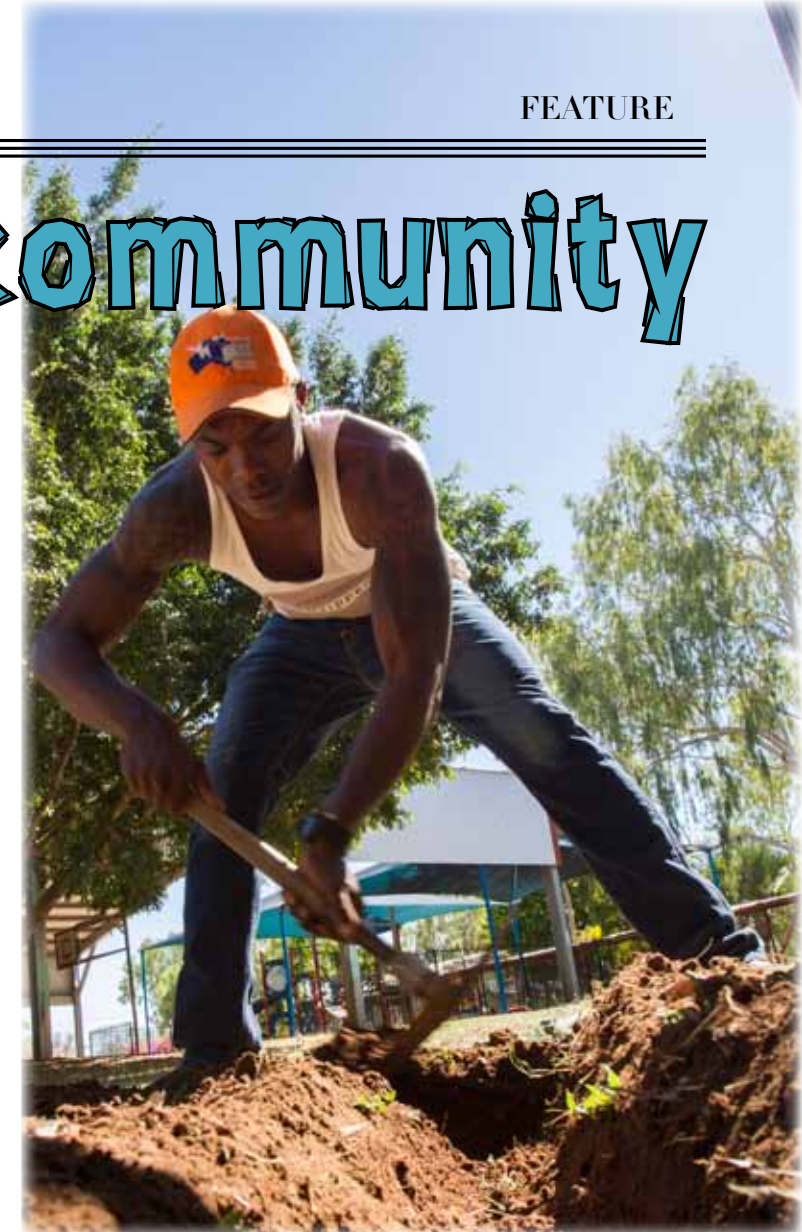
The Marines completed most of the painting, but soon after they began, curious children approached the work site. The young children shared smiles and paintbrushes with the servicemembers before running off to play in the warm Australian afternoon.

As the day ended, the Marines received a special treat from the community. The Marines received a tour of the Jilkmिंगgan's land, which includes some of the Northern Territories most beautiful landscape.

"The most memorable part of the trip, for me, was when they took us out into what they termed 'the jungle.' They took us for a ride through their land and to the river, and there is something about that river. There is really no way to describe it, except to be there. It is just a peaceful, beautiful sight," said Wallingford.

Wallingford said the visit with the Aboriginal community was a great opportunity for Marines to connect with some of the people that live in the area, and that they impact their world when they fly jets over their land.

"When we got there some of the people said one of the F/18s had flown by and dipped its wing; as kind of a way to say hello, and they were very excited about that," said Wallingford. "That's just proof that we are having an impact, and that is we want, an impact to be positive and positively remembered."



Lance Cpl. Terrance Watts, a plane captain with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, digs a trench for irrigation lines, Aug. 24, 2013. Watts spent his day helping the Jilkmिंगgan community and in return they cooked the Marines and sailors authentic Aboriginal food to include bush bread.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jayney Hoegh, a corpsman with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, and Lance Cpl. Matthew Amador, an aviation logistics information management specialist with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, paint a school building at the Jilkmिंगgan community, Aug. 24, 2013. Marines and sailors visited the community to help paint the school building and to install irrigation lines.



Jeffrey Pierce, an aircrew trainee with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, helps two local children paint a school building in the Jilkmिंगgan community. Although the Marines and sailors began the painting job alone, passing children became curious of the servicemembers and joined in the work.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. LIA ADKINS

Capt. Robert Christensen, Company L executive officer, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, patrols through a busy bazaar in Now Zad district, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 8, 2013. In 2009 after 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, launched and completed Operation Cobra's Anger, sweeping through Now Zad and clearing out insurgents, locals started moving back to Now Zad. Now, the unit has come full circle. They are back for their second tour of duty but this time to draw down operations and hand over security of the district to Afghan National Security Forces.

Marines reflect on progress, sacrifices in Now Zad

SGT. LIA ADKINS
REGIONAL COMMAND SOUTHWEST

NOW ZAD, Afghanistan — When Marines first arrived to set up a combat outpost in Now Zad district in 2007, the area was desolate and riddled with rubble. Homes were empty, streets were barren and anyone who wandered into the city were believed to be Taliban. It wasn't until 2009 after 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, launched and completed Operation Cobra's Anger, sweeping through Now Zad and clearing out insurgents, that locals started moving back. Now, the unit has come full circle. They are back for their second tour of duty, but this time, to draw down operations and hand over security of the district to Afghan National Security Forces. Today, Now Zad and its bazaar are flourishing in comparison. Hundreds of Afghans have moved back into the area, more than three dozen stores have opened in the bazaar and children can be seen playing throughout the area. Although the threat of insurgent attacks remains, Marines partnered with ANSF have helped the area recover and have fostered good relationships with locals. A few of the Marines returning with 3rd Bn., 4th Marines were in Now Zad during some of the most intense fighting and have been overwhelmed by the change.

"When I first got back, it felt good to come back and see people, lights, the market bazaar open and kids everywhere," said Sgt. Jorge Vera, a squad leader for 4th Platoon, Company L, 3rd Bn., 4th Marines. Now Zad was deserted when Vera arrived in 2008 as a team leader with 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. The city remained peaceful for nearly two months—then war erupted. Taliban fighters relentlessly attacked Vera's unit with small arms fire, heavy machine gun fire, mortars and improvised explosive devices. "Up until the very day we left it was firefight after firefight, IED after IED," said Vera, a Bronx, NY., native. Vera said he has vivid memories of Now Zad, mostly because of the caustic toll the city had on his unit. Vera's squad leader, Cpl. Michael W. Ouellette, was wounded by an IED and later succumbed to his injuries. Ouellette, who received the Navy Cross posthumously, is one of nineteen Marines killed in Now Zad since the war in Afghanistan began. "There was a lot of sacrificing here, a lot of good guys didn't get to come home," said Vera. "(Those Marines) did all they had to, to turn this place to where it is now." Cpl. Larry Jackson deployed with Company L, 3rd Bn., 4th Marines in 2009, which replaced Vera's unit. He participated in Operation Cobra's Anger and said locals started moving into the city and interacting with Marines

just days after the operation. "At first they were slightly timid, but once they realized what we could do for them and what we were offering, they came around very rapidly," said Jackson, a Paducah, Ky., native. "They actually got to the point where they were telling us things when we would go out, (such as), 'Hey, there's two IED's over here that you need to blow up,' or 'I have mortar rounds in my house that the Taliban put there, can you come take them out?'" Jackson said it was amazing to get to redeploy to Now Zad and see how much it had changed. Jackson admits being able to return to the city and see the growth in the community made everything worth it to him in the end. The Marines are now preparing to withdraw from the area. Now Zad will be the first district in Northern Helmand where security is handed over to ANSF. The departure marks a moment of closure yet is poignant for some of the Marines. Jackson said he feels ANSF can "hold their own" in the area after 3rd Bn., 4th Marines leaves and said he feels like the unit played a large part in getting Now Zad to its current state. "I feel like something was accomplished with my time in Afghanistan," said Jackson. "It was something that was bigger than me and maybe bigger than the unit because we impacted people's lives forever."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Gospel Choir
The Gospel Choir is looking for participants. Practices occur every Friday night from 7:30- 8:30 p.m. for more information please contact Billie Scott at 080-3272-5902 or email BillieJ316@gmail.com.

Crime Stoppers
To report a crime, call 253-3333. Callers can leave a detailed message without having to speak to a live person.

Lending Locker Program
The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check-out items

and the program is by appointment only. The lending locker is located in Building 411 Room 101. For more information, call 253-4929.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans
The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$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.

Jobs

Support, and three letters of recommendation. Must successfully complete and pass a background investigation. This is not a civil service position. This is a full time position of 40 hours a week. Call 253-4628 for inquiries.

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. 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. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

Children get new twist on deployment workshops

STORY AND PHOTO BY
PFC. ALISSA P. SCHUNING
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Children, Marines and parents participated in Superheroes and Princesses, an event at Yujo Hall aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 21, 2013, as part of the Family Readiness and Deployment Program. Superheroes and Princesses used a unique spin on an ordinary Mid-Deployment Workshop that is geared toward helping children deal with their parents being away. Kids dressed as their favorite superhero or princess to honor heroes in their lives. "If you say mid-deployment, some people think about that seven month deployment...since we don't really have (seven month deployments) a whole lot here, I wanted to give (Mid-Deployment Workshop) a different title," said Jennifer Carr, Marine Corps Family Team Building family readiness and deployment trainer. Carr took a new route with the curriculum and made it more activity based than just information. "She designed this around the Mid-Deployment for Success for Kids, but the curriculum is very cut and dry like you're supposed to teach it to them," said Alexandra Patrocino, MCFTB life skills trainer. "Being the creative trainer she is, she figured this might be a more appropriate avenue to do

it." The kids colored, made picture frames and played games during the three hour workshop while building relationships with children who are sharing a similar experience. "It gives them a positive outlet to actually discuss these things that they might not of otherwise discussed," said Patrocino. Carr is a mother of three kids with a husband currently in Okinawa and knows the importance of having outlets for children of deployed parents to express their feelings. This class is important because it helps the children get together with the other kids and realize the feelings they have are normal, explained Carr. Children of deployed servicemembers are not the only ones who are allowed at events like these, all children aboard station are welcome.



Children build picture frames during Superheroes and Princesses at Yujo Hall aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 21, 2013. Kids created the picture frames to hold photographs that were taken during the event of them in their costumes.

"There were a couple of kids here who didn't have their parents deployed but that doesn't necessarily mean that their parents are never going to be deployed," said Patrocino. Deployment workshops help the entire family benefit from the Family Readiness and Deployment Program, said Carr. The Family Readiness and Deployment Program also offers classes for spouses and teenagers. The Taking Care of You series,

a Mid-Deployment workshop for spouses, is available monthly and there are Deployment Lunches at school for teenagers. "We don't deploy a lot here from Iwakuni but they are going on a lot of two month missions," said Carr. "Family members going over to Okinawa for school, or back to the states for training so (these workshops) are something to get the kids and the community together to deal with those issues."

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 Service
1 p.m. Children's Church
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
5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

2nd Saturday 7:30 a.m. Men's Discipleship

1st and 3rd Saturday 10 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist

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 ART EXHIBITION OF “HELLO KITTY”

The exhibit is located at the Shunan City Museum of Art and History, Shunan City, Yamaguchi Pref. from now until Sept. 16, 2013. “Hello Kitty” was born in 1974 and is the representative of Japanese “Kawaii” culture. The exhibition includes modern art by Yuko Yamaguchi, the third designer of Hello Kitty. For more information, contact the Shunan City Museum of Art and History at 0834-22-8885.

CORMORANT FISHING AT KINTAI BRIDGE

The cormorant fishing at Nishiki River by the Kintai Bridge is open from June 1 to September 10, 2013. Cormorant fishing is the traditional style of fishing in Japan. Fish are caught using trained cormorant birds. This method of fishing has approximately 400 years of history. For schedules and prices, contact the Kintaikyo Cormorant Fishing Promoting Co. Ltd. at 0827-28-2877 or visit their website at URL: <http://www.ukai-iwakuni.com/content/en.html>

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, August 30, 2013
7 p.m. R.I.P.D (PG-13)
10 p.m. The Conjuring (R)

Saturday, August 31, 2013
4 p.m. Turbo (PG)
7 p.m. Grown Ups 2 (PG-13)

Sunday, September 1, 2013
4 p.m. Turbo (PG)
7 p.m. Red 2 (PG-13)

Monday, September 2, 2013
7 P.M. The Wolverine (PG-13)
Holiday Special

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

Kanji Adventures

HANABI

花火

Fireworks



Originally used to ward off evil spirits, fireworks have a long history in Japan and are an important part of Japanese summers. Hundreds of firework shows are held every year across the country, mainly during the summer holidays in July and August, with some of them drawing hundreds of thousands of spectators. Japanese firework shells range in size from smaller ones to the world record holding Yonshakudama shells which are 1.2 meter in diameter and weigh several hundred kilograms. The most common are star mines, which are spherical shells that have a variety of burst patterns. Other unique fireworks include Niagara sparklers that are set under bridges and resemble the famous waterfalls, and formed shells that burst into familiar shapes such as hearts, smiley faces and cartoon characters. A secondary attraction of Japanese fireworks is the relaxed festival atmosphere that comes with them; people dressed in summer kimonos and streets lined with food and game stalls. The firework shows typically start after sunset and last one to two hours. Many of the longer shows are broken up into multiple shorter segments, interrupted by the announcement of titles and sponsors. They often end with a grand finale consisting of hundreds of shells launched simultaneously.

Samurai football returns for second year



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY: CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

PFC. ALISSA P. SCHUNING
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Matthew C. Perry High School football team, the Samurai, return for a second season after ending with a record of 5-2 last year. Hopes are high for the Samurai, with the number of players more than doubling since last season. “We are a real (Junior Varsity) team this year,” said Frank Macias, M. C. Perry High School football head coach. “Last year, for 21 kids, I think we had 12 seniors, so we were pretty heavy on older kids.” Macias is more focused on growing the team with 22 of 45 players being freshman and relatively new to the sport. “The positive side with the young kids is they improve steadily, so I believe we’re going to be a lot better by the end of the season than the way we ended last year,” said Macias. Macias sees promise in the up and coming players and has a lot of faith in the new Samurai quarterback, Michael H. Carreiro. “He’s the heart and soul of our team right now,” said Macias. Carreiro is a returning sophomore who played backup fullback last year and believes in the abilities of this new team. As long as the team keeps working hard and striving for the best, they can do really well, said Carreiro. With three weeks of practice, the Samurai are gearing up to take on their first game of the season Aug. 31 against Sutoku, a Japanese high school from Hiroshima. The team recently had a chance to practice with the Japanese players and experience first-hand what they would be up against. “It’s pretty humbling to see a Japanese team play an American sport just as well, if not better, than we can play it ourselves,” said Carreiro. The Samurai also play five Department of Defense Education Activity schools throughout Japan along with Sutoku High School. The competition is expected to be a lot tougher for the Samurai this season, according to Macias. “I think (the other teams) took us a little lightly,” said Macias. “They won’t this year, so I expect them to be better.” Macias is ready to take on the new season but his priorities have shifted from numbers to knowledge. “Wins and losses are not that important this year,” said Macias. “What’s important is that we learn football and get better.”



Matthew C. Perry High School football players line up during practice at M. C. Perry football field aboard Marine Corp Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 22, 2013. M. C. Perry High School is slated to have a varsity football team after this season.

2013 M. C. Perry Football Schedule

	Day	Date	Time	Opponent	Location
	Saturday	8/31	4 p.m.	Sotuku HS	M. C. Perry HS
	Saturday	9/14	1 p.m.	Kinnick HS	M. C. Perry HS
	Saturday	9/21	1 p.m.	ASIJ	ASIJ
	Saturday	9/28	1 p.m.	Yokota HS	Yokota HS
	Saturday	10/12	1 p.m.	Edgren HS	Yokota HS
	Saturday	10/12	1 p.m.	Sotuku HS	M. C. Perry HS
	Saturday	10/12	1 p.m.	Zama HS	Atsugi
					

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Aug. 27, 1976, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on the start of the Combined Federal Campaign, the U.S. Naval Academy becoming easier for enlisted Marines to attend and Plane Captains and their tasks as aircraft trouble shooters. In this article, Marines with Wing Engineer Squadron 17, install one of the first vertical landing pads for a detachment of AV-8A Harriers.

New concept put to test by seven-elevens

Story and photo by Sgt. W.D. Walker

When launch and recovery refers to its men as 7-11s, they aren't reminiscing about dice games. They are referring to their MOS, 7011, or Expeditionary Airfield Support.

Launch and recovery is a section of Wing Engineer Squadron (WES)-17. This squadron furnishes the engineer support for Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG)-17 of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

NEW CONCEPT

The 7-11s worked on a new concept while on a recent air-ground exercise. They installed a vertical landing pad for a detachment of AV-8A Harriers.

The OIC of the section was 2dLt. Steve Herrington, a 13-month veteran. Herrington was eager to praise his men on a job well done.

"I haven't worked with very many crews of this type but these men really did their best on this job. It's impossible to single out any one man because they all worked so hard as a team," concluded the Houston, Tex., native.

On paper it is a relatively simple operation to construct a vertical landing pad. Level the ground, take an earth sample, lay down the rubber membrane, lay the matting, put in earth anchors, set the charges to expand the earth anchors, fill the anchors with florok, put caps on the anchors and in four hours conduct a test pull to determine if the anchors will hold their position.

TWO DIFFERENT ENTITIES

Writing about and completing the task are two entirely different entities, however. SSgt. Thomas O. McGauley of Columbia, S.C., would be the last person to say he and his men had an easy time installing the pad.

LEVEL GROUND A MUST

"We didn't have a hard time leveling the ground but we do have to insure it is level so when the Harriers land the matting will be

stationary. The only problem we ran into was a drainage ditch that cut through the area we were working in. We had to lay a culvert so the water would continue to flow to an area where they were cultivating some grass for commercial purposes," finished the eight-year veteran.



EARTH ANCHOR - Sgt. Steve D. Metroff (left) and LCpl. Rodney L. Johnson prepare to drill a hole for an earth anchor. This is just one of the many processes involved in the construction of a vertical landing pad for AV-8A Harriers.

After leveling the field, McGauley and his men took an earth sample to determine what type of soil they would be working with. The soil turned out to be a mixture of clay, sand and rock, very hard soil to work.

The men then took the rubber membrane and spread it over the ground. This pad keeps the ground from becoming muddy and the matting won't give way and buckle whenever the planes land. The rubber membrane weighs approximately 900 pounds, and McGauley had eight men and himself to spread it out.

TWO MATT SIZES

The matting itself comes next. There are two different sizes. One is 12 feet long and weighs 144 pounds and the other is six feet long, and weighs 72 pounds; both sizes are two feet wide. The pad was to be 96 square feet. This meant the first row would consist of eight 12-foot sections. For interlocking purposes the second row would consist of first, a 6-foot section then a 12-foot section until the second row was as long as the first. There were 24 rows of each

type when the pad was completed.

The earth anchors, known as LEA-20s, are the next step in the construction process. Each anchor is a six-foot-long piece of hollow pipe with an ogee head. This means the head is pre-cut into four sections running up the pipe about eight inches.

A hole is drilled in the ground and the pipe is lowered into it. Then a quarter pound of C-2 explosive is inserted into the pipe and it is filled with water to keep the force of the explosion pointed downward. The ground was so hard an extra charge had to be inserted. The explosive charge is then set off electrically, causing the ends to flare out and

sink into the earth. This portion of the task will have been completed after 15 repetitions.

HELPS HOLD PAD DOWN

The florok, a cement mixture something like epoxy and very fast drying, is poured into the tube and left to harden and is used to help hold the pad down. McGauley and his men then applied caps to the anchors and waited four hours to test the pad and see if it would hold under 7,500 pounds of pressure-pull.

A nice, easy, neat operation? On paper. McGauley's men had to really sweat to make the field operational in only 12 hours.

"This is the first time my men have constructed a purely vertical pad and we didn't have the equipment we would have had at Iwakuni, but we did the work with what we had and as quickly as possible," commented McGauley.

Two of his men, Sgt. Al Tregoning and LCpl. Larry Phillips, summed up, "We worked, sweated, tugged and pulled together. We're the best 7-11s around."