Final check ensures safety on 'Highway through Danger Zone'

Flight equipment Marines ensure pilot safety during Exercise Southern Frontier

Flight equipment Marines ensure pilot safety during Exercise Southern Frontier

Sgt. Charles McKelvey
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia  — Whenever a jet takes off there is a risk of danger. While some may consider Marine aviators the best in the world, there is still a possibility of the worst-case scenario: an ejection. If an ejection occurs, the aircrew must rely on their flight equipment, and the Marines who maintain it on a daily basis. Pilots and weapons system officers from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, fly day in and day out with this risk during Exercise Southern Frontier, which began Aug. 5, 2013. “The mission of flight equipment is to ensure the safety of the pilots in the event of an ejection,” said Staff Sgt. Neil Seip, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of flight equipment for VMFA(AW)-242. Ensuring the safety of the aircrew is a job that starts long before the Marines in the flight equipment shop leave Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, the squadron’s home station. Seip said they have an extensive period of work before a deployment because they have Air Traffic Control Marines and civilians, who are specialized in the radar branch, monitor aircraft and provide pilots their altitude, as well as the direction they are flying in MCAS Iwakuni’s flight space. Sergeant Pilar Gonzalez, air traffic controlman with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, has spent the past five years working in the radar branch of ATC. Gonzalez said that every day on the job is training, training is continuous and anyone who stops furthering their training is removed from the military occupational specialty. Radar specialists work with Marines and civilians inside the tower to coordinate flights and relay messages to assure ATC’s

Radar serves station as an eye in the sky

GUITAR
For the love of music | P. 4

UNIT
What happens here while units are away | P. 5

RESCUE
Urban firefighters train to save | P. 6&7
**Models strut their stuff on red carpet**

Story and photo by Lance CPL. Amanda J. Johnson

Iwakuni, Japan—The Iwakuni Approach 2013 opened with a red carpet event at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 31, 2013. It was the largest event of its kind to be held at MCAS Iwakuni, featuring 12 runway models and 180 attendees. The event included food, drinks, and music, creating a festive atmosphere.

The Iwakuni Approach 2013 is a week-long event that features Semper Style, a high-end beauty and hair salon, as well as a fashion show and runway competition. The event is sponsored by the Marine Corps Community Services and is open to all personnel stationed in Iwakuni, Japan.

The runway show featured models from various branches of the military, including the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. The models walked down a red carpet runway, each dressed in a unique outfit.

The fashion show included a variety of different styles, including dresses, suits, and casual wear. The models were accompanied by music and lighting, creating a glamorous atmosphere.

The event was a great success, with attendees enjoying the food, drinks, and music. The fashion show was a highlight of the evening, with models strutting their stuff on the runway.

The Iwakuni Approach 2013 is an annual event that brings the community together for a fun-filled week of activities. The event is sponsored by the Marine Corps Community Services and is open to all personnel stationed in Iwakuni, Japan.
Guitar musical notes play into lifelong journey

Pfc. D. A. Walters
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A mother and her 7-year-old son living in Pembroke, Fla., shared a love for music. The mother, who was a Jimmy Rodgers fan, took her son to a music store looking for pianos, but discovered they were too expensive.

The young boy’s eyes scanned the room, and upon a single glance one instrument caught his attention: a Gibson SG guitar that his mother then bought for him.

What they didn’t know was that single act, of something as simple as buying a guitar, would be the first step on a path he would follow the rest of his life, though it would not come without hardships.

That young boy is now Chief Warrant Officer 5 Vince C. Endresen, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Marine Corps Community Services support division chief and MCCS Marine officer-in-charge.

His first on-stage performance was played during his 2nd grade talent show, where he said it was at that moment he fell in love with the feeling of entertaining and performing for a crowd.

“I never lost that feeling,” said Endresen. “It’s just a high you can’t duplicate.”

Endresen’s knowledge and repertoire expanded through listening to bands like the Beatles, Boston and Chicago as he progressed through his teens and high school.

In one sentence: “It’s just a high you can’t duplicate.”

“I never lost that feeling,” said Endresen. “It’s just a high you can’t duplicate.”

Endresen compares playing the guitar to “a lifestyle.”

Within that lifestyle, Endresen said he wants to continue to play and continue to record and release his own album.

Endresen summed up what music means to him in one sentence:

“Music is emotions and thoughts you can hear.”

Whether it is building, playing or collecting, Endresen continues to pursue the lifestyle of a guitar fanatic.

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Station firefighters aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, recently completed their Urban Search and Rescue Technical Search Training course at the station firehouse Aug. 28, 2013.

The course, provided by Safety Solutions Incorporated, taught firefighters the abilities of detecting, locating and rescuing victims of an earthquake, tsunami or any other type natural disaster.

"Iwakuni Team One is always on standby in case of any type of emergency," said Ken Kobayashi, station firefighter and crew chief. "If an earthquake were to hit Iwakuni, our team would be the first to respond."

Firefighters spent the majority of their time in classroom instruction studying different rescue techniques, nomenclature and use of their equipment and potential hazards that can affect a rescue. In addition, they practiced mock scenarios in preparation for their practical application as the final exam.

"The fire department has limited personnel, so the goal is to make sure they're all capable of being able to perform these tasks in an efficient manner," said Harry Muns, Chula Vista, Calif., battalion chief and course instructor.

Their practical application consisted of a culmination of events, testing their skills learned throughout the course.

For the first day, an initial recon team collected data on all the buildings and searched for any possible quick rescues.

"If the recon team comes across a trapped victim that would take an extended period of time to rescue, their job is to note that information in their (global positioning system) and maps," said Muns. "Then they pass that information to the secondary team will come back and be more suited to rescue those victims."

For the second day of the exam, the secondary team received the information about the trapped victims and proceeded to extract them.

Instructors watched closely ensuring all firefighters were following their procedures correctly and stepped in at times to give some tips.

In the end, the crew managed to successfully rescue all of the trapped victims safely, passing the course.

Their completion of this training adds to a long list of training accomplishments, including Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear materials training and First Responders training.

Above | Firefighters from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, cut rebar to extract a victim trapped from a collapse for their practical application exam during the Urban Search and Rescue Technical Search Training course Aug. 28, 2013.

Left | Firefighters from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, extract a training dummy from a simulated collapse for their practical application exam during the Urban Search and Rescue Technical Search Training course Aug. 28, 2013.
CORPS NEWS
HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

31st MEU inserts battalion-sized force for Exercise Koolendong 13

Story and photo by Cpl. Cody Underwood
31st MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
BRADSHAW FIELD TRAINING AREA, Northern Territory, Australia — Leaning forward in the seat and holding his rifle for support, the Marine braced for impact as the 7-ton truck sped over yet another pile of dirt. Two days of travel has covered the Marine’s gear in a thick film of dust, muddling the camouflage pattern into one solid color of tan. Overhead, the slow beat of rotors announces the passage of another wave of aircraft carrying additional forces.

The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit utilized the capabilities of its aviation combat element and combat logistics element to transport a battalion-sized element more than 305 miles inland for Exercise Koolendong 13 here, Aug. 29 through 31. Combat Logistics Battalion 31, the 31st MEU’s combat logistics element, used Medium Tactical Vehicles Replacements (7-ton vehicles) and High Mobility, Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) to move 189 troops from the USS Bons Bommier’s landing craft to the port of Darwin to the Australian outback. With well-trained mechanics as part of the convoy and an array of replacement parts, CLB-31 can keep a sizeable force on the move.

Moving the troops via convoy and aircraft, the 31st MEU demonstrated the operational reach of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The completion of the movement enables the 31st MEU to begin the week-long, live-fire Exercise Koolendong 13. Also participating in the exercise is the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin and soldiers of the 5th Royal Australian Army.

“We are self-sustaining by keeping all the necessary capabilities to keep the convoy moving without outside support,” the convoy shifted on to the horizon as 57 vehicles moved inland 379 miles to the training area. The convoy also included light armored vehicles carrying Marines and sailors from Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine: as well as troops from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 269 (Reinforced) and the command element of the 31st MEU.

“Traveling in the convoy was awesome because we were able to go through the outback and see a part of the world that most Americans my age don’t get to see,” said Cpl. Luis R. Ortiz, a 27-year-old motor transportation operator with CLB-31, 31st MEU.

While CLB-31 was traveling the roads, a plane flew in August 29 through 31. Combat Logistics Battalion 31, the 31st MEU’s combat logistics element, used Medium Tactical Vehicles Replacements (7-ton vehicles) and High Mobility, Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) to move 189 troops from the USS Bons Bommier’s landing craft to the port of Darwin to the Australian outback. With well-trained mechanics as part of the convoy and an array of replacement parts, CLB-31 can keep a sizeable force on the move.

“For our movements, CLB-31 uses 7-ton and HMMWVs to transport personnel and equipment,” said Capt. Sabrina M. Villarreal, 35-year-old operations officer with CLB-31, 31st MEU. “We are self-sustaining by taking all the necessary capabilities to keep the convoy moving without outside support.”

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**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**
- Saturday: 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’ Ten, 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 253-5871.

**SAKURA THEATER**

**Friday, September 6, 2013**
- 7 p.m. The Wolverine (PG-13)
- 20 p.m. R.I.P.D. (PG-13)

**Saturday, September 7, 2013**
- 4 p.m. The Smurfs (PG)
- 7 p.m. Red 2 (PG-13)

**Sunday, September 8, 2013**
- 4 p.m. Turbo (PG)
- 7 p.m. 2 Guns (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsaimiwakuni.marines.mil/news/Liveentertainment.aspx or call 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.mccsaimiwakuni.marines.mil or call 253-5291.**

**OUT AND ABOUT: Japan**

**IWAKUNI BASE FESTIVAL**

Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Fleet Air Wing 31 is celebrating their 40th anniversary this year with an open house for all members of the local community Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This event is held annually on the JMSDF section of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and will have live local bands, Japanese and American food vendors, a low local mascots, and a tug-of-war between JMSDF aircraft and children.

This year, there is also a drawing to take a flight on either a US-2 seaplane or MH-53 helicopter.

To register for the drawing, sign up onsite at JMSDF Hangar 1 before 10 a.m. Gates open at 7 a.m.

Parking near the hangar will not be available for this event. Shuttles going to and from the event site will be available.

For those living on base, pick up will be next to the contractors gate on the North Side of MCAS Iwakuni.

For those living off base, shuttles will be departing from the Wholesome Farmer’s Market near the Monzen exit from the Iwakuni Train Station.

For more information, contact JMSDF Iwakuni at 0827-22-3181 or visit their website at http://www.mod.go.jp/jsdf/itj/waktn/ht/kichi2a25.html

**For more information on upcoming events visit our website at http://www.mccsaimiwakuni.marines.mil/news/liveentertainment.aspx or visit Information Tours and Travel located in the Crossroads Mall or call 253-4377.**

**Marines make way to top: journey to the top of the castle**

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Robo

As clouds rolled in, bringing what would be an additional challenge, Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 12 prepared for a company-level run up to the Kintai Castle in Iwakuni, Japan, Aug. 30, 2013.

According to Capt. Lucas Malabad, MAG-12 Headquarters commanding officer, company physical training off base helps build unit cohesion, increases camaraderie within sections and motivates Marines.

“I think this type of PT is good for the Marines,” said Malabad. “It gets them off base to see a little bit of Japan, but it’s still close. It’s something different than 10-counts and eight-counts or flutter kicks and hello daddies.”

The run began at the base of the castle with approximately 56 Marines, who divided into their work sections to compete with one another.

Almost in a cliché way, rain began to pour on the Marines as they made their way to the top. Participants looked to one another for encouragement and strength to continue the strenuous run.

“To be right there with them, doing it hand-in-hand, that’s what this is all about,” said Gunnery Sgt. John Horsley, MAG-12 Headquarters first sergeant. “It’s not just sitting in the back and joshing them, but actually be right there beside them.”

For some Marines, the best part of the run came at the top.

“It was great motivating, especially the (Professional Military Education) at the top,” said Lance Cpl. Anna Fernandez. “It reminded me why I joined.”

The topic of the PME focused on why Marines want until life or death situations to truly stand up for one another. The intent of the lesson was to get Marines to understand they should constantly look after one another like siblings.

According to Horsley, a former Drill Instructor, when in recruit training, Marines come from all walks of life, but endure the same hardships, creating a bond like no other. The run to Kintai Castle was another major hurdle the MAG Marines had to overcome together.

**THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS**

One of the most famous Kagura performances in the present day, “Yamata-no-Orochi” is a tale of an eight-headed, eight-tailed serpent that terrorized the Izumo Province.

The legend goes that a god named Susano-o was banished from the heavens after tricking his sister Amaterasu, the sun goddess. After his expulsion, Susano-o followed the Hii river to the court of a love-stricken couple. They had eight daughters, but the Yamata-no-Orochi devoured one every year until they had one left. Susano-o vowed he would slay the serpent in exchange for their daughter’s hand in marriage. They happily agreed.

When Susano-o appeared after the night, the serpent appeared and it down until the serpent was incapacitated and began to cut it down until the serpent was no more. The couple had eight daughters, but the Yamata-no-Orochi devoured one every year until they had one left. Susano-o vowed he would slay the serpent in exchange for their daughter’s hand in marriage.

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Soaring high - 31 AW 40th Anniversary

In celebration of the 40th year anniversary since the opening of Fleet Air Wing 31

**JMSDF IWAKUNI BASE FESTIVAL**

Sept 15 (Sun) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Gate opens at 7 a.m.)

Sign up for an experience onboard a Flying Boat or Helicopter
Passengers will be selected by drawing.

Registration for drawing is available on the day of the Open House, although seats are limited. Please be advised to complete registration process at the event site before 10 a.m.

1. Flight with visitors and other events are subject to change or could be possibly called off in case of weather or unexpected conditions.
2. For U.S. base residents, free shuttle buses are available from the Contractor’s Gate. Due to limited space, it is discouraged to drive POVs to the JMSDF Open House site.

Point of Contact: JMSDF Fleet Air Wing 31 Public Relations Office (Tel: 0827-22-3181, ext. 6232)
Website: [http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/iwakuni](http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/iwakuni)
Facebook: Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force
Twitter: @JMSDF_PAO

The 40th Year Anniversary with the community, it's our privilege to say Arigato 40 times.