



the KINTAI
shimbun

Tour boasts big bonuses, rapid reenlistment

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Streets of Hiroshima offer more than meets the eye

by Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

Stacked crowned champs of 3-on-3 basketball tourney

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

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Oct. 4, 2007

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Tour boasts big bonuses, rapid reenlistment for Iwakuni Marines

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Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Marines and sailors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 prepare to drop their packs at the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 hangar, signaling an end to the seven-mile hike Sept. 28. The service members were then treated to a warrior's breakfast.

Newly arrived HM-14 meets Japanese Counterpart

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Moto Photo

Marauders ‘hike up’ combat readiness with 7-mile hump

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun Staff

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 took part in a seven-mile hike around the air station Sept. 28.

The “hump”, as it’s called by Marines, promoted unit morale and is part of a combat-readiness campaign, according to Sgt. Maj. James C. Kirkland, MALS-12’s senior enlisted Marine and native of Des Moines, Iowa.

Kirkland’s early-morning evolution required the Marines and sailors to don loaded patrol packs and reflective belts, weave through the northern facilities of the air station to the halfway point at the Crossroads Mall, and head toward the flight line.

“After seven miles, we’re going to end up at the (Marine Fighter Attack Squadron) 212 hangar,” said Lance Cpl. Cory M. Noe, MALS-12 inventory maintenance readiness manager and native of Lenoir City, Tenn.

“This is awesome physical training, and I’m excited to participate in what we have planned next,” he added.

Upon arrival at the VMFA-212 hangar here, the squadron partook in a warrior’s breakfast to celebrate the completion of the hump.

“Walking through the flight line at sunrise is pretty motivating,” said Sgt. John R. Bussell, MALS-12 aviation navigational systems technician and native of Jacksonville, Fla.

“I believe that every Marine will be in a fight at one point in his life.”
-Sgt. Maj. James C. Kirkland

“Having the entire squadron out here early in the morning with a warrior’s breakfast really encourages unit cohesion.”



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Marines and sailors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 come to attention at 4:30 a.m. in front of the MALS-12 barracks here, Sept. 28 before the start of their seven-mile hike to promote unit cohesion and a combat mindset.

This hump is one episode of Kirkland’s long-standing initiative to promote a combat mindset. In recent weeks, the unit has participated in squad challenges, obstacle courses and motivational runs.

“The commandant is always saying that he wants to make sure everyone will get a chance to get in the fight,” said Kirkland. “I

believe that every Marine will be in a fight at one point in his life. The point of this training is to prepare them for that moment.”

Domestic Violence Prevention Month: Victims commemorated, residents educated on abuse

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun Staff

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

Abraham Lincoln’s famous words ring true today as they did in 1858, a point Col. Michael A. O’Halloran, station commanding officer, illustrated to an attentive crowd of uniformed and civilian spectators.

“Not only does domestic violence tear homes apart, it also tears at the entire military community,” he said. “Each and every one of us must take a role in prevention. When it comes to domestic violence, no one is an innocent bystander.”

These words appeared on the proclamation against domestic violence signed by the commanding officer during the Unity Day luncheon at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Oct. 3.

Unity Day and the proclamation signing marked the start of Domestic Violence Prevention month, a national movement to

combat all forms of spousal and child abuse. Throughout October, events and resources will be available to help station residents recommit themselves to the important cause.

According to Shermona M. Hart, Marine and Family Counseling Services victim advocate, the month is meant to bring awareness to a problem sometimes facing families, friends and neighbors here.

“Members of the community need to be educated about (domestic violence),” said the Youngstown, Ohio, native. “If they need help, then they need to utilize the counseling services here and get that help.”

Events scheduled this month include a self-defense class to be held at IronWorks Gym, a candlelight vigil at the Marine Memorial Chapel and weekly radio broadcasts informing listeners on the consequences of abusive relationships. A popular draw last year, the one-woman performance “The Yellow Dress” will also make a three-show return to the Sakura Theater.

SEE ABUSE ON PAGE 4



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
A purple ribbon, the symbol of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, sits upon a display table during the Unity Day luncheon at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Oct. 3.

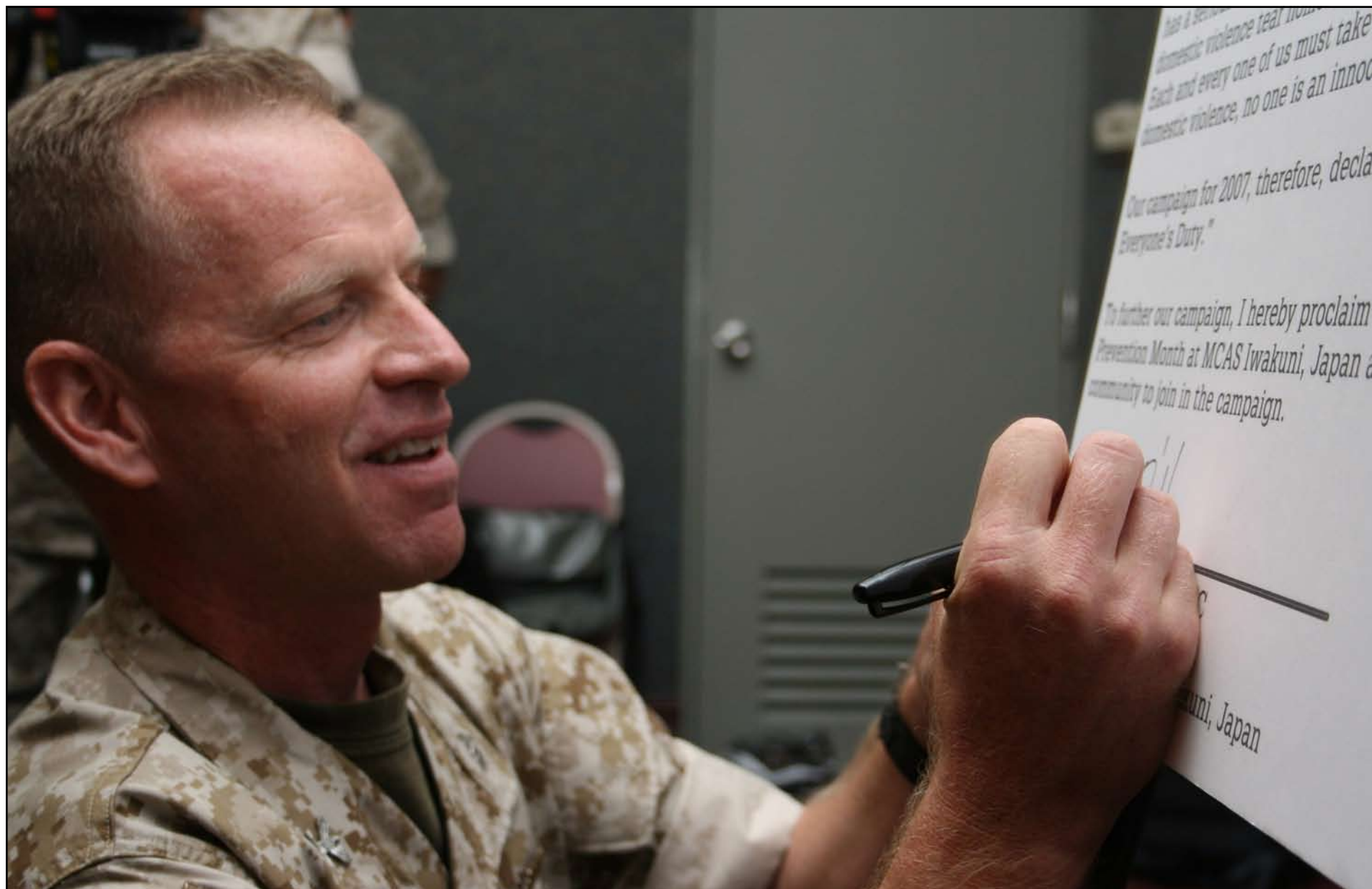
ABUSE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

During the Unity Day luncheon, several community members were recognized for their work in support of the victim advocacy program. One volunteer victim advocate who began contributing her time because of a “desire and need to help others,” says it’s important for those in dangerous relationships to have a place to turn or someone to confide in.

“This isn’t something people have to tolerate,” said Angela M. Taylor, a New Orleans native. “You can pick up the phone and call (Marine and Family Counseling Services), a neighbor or a friend. You’d be amazed how much help is out there if you just ask.”

For more information on domestic violence prevention or reporting procedures contact Marine and Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Station Commanding Officer Col. Michael A. O’Halloran signs a proclamation against domestic violence during the Unity Day luncheon at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Oct. 3. Unity Day marked the start of Domestic Violence Prevention Month.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Tour boasts **BIG BONUSES,** **RAPID REENLISTMENT** **X for Iwakuni Marines**

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun Staff

Members of the Quantico-based Manpower Management Enlisted Assignment command paid a visit to the air station Friday.

The staff of enlisted retention personnel, assignment monitors and career counselors educated Marines here on the most recent retention policies and career opportunities through presentations at Building One and the Sakura Theater and provided one-on-one counseling at the station chapel.

The focus of the visit was to reenlist Marines in support of the Corps' initiative to accrue troop strength of 202,000 warriors by fiscal year 2011, according to Maj. Trevor Hall, MMEA 6 assistant head.

Reenlistment incentives are especially high for fiscal year 2008, and MMEA personnel knew they were in for a busy day when

Marines began arriving at the chapel at 7 a.m. Over the next 10 hours, a steady crowd of service members waited for their chance to secure a big bonus or choice of duty station.

"When you have a monitor here in front of you away from his desk at Headquarters Marine Corps, he's not answering phone calls or e-mails all day," said Gunnery Sgt. Leodis Smith, station career planner and Latta, S.C., native. "He's right there saying, 'Hey devil dog, what can I do for you?'"

As a result of their stop in Iwakuni, the monitors were able to speak directly with more than 325 Marines, issue 81 permanent change of station orders and grant reenlistment authority to 29 ecstatic leathernecks.

"It feels spectacular, because now I know I'm taking care of my wife and kids," said Cpl Daniel L. D. Battig, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 aircraft maintenance



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Cpl. Aaron L. Goldman, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 F/A-18 mechanic and native of Corpus Christi, Texas, stands alongside Sgt. Philip E. Roderick, VMFA-212 career retention specialist and Manton, Mich., native, and Maj. Theodore R. Parker, assistant head of Manpower Management Enlisted Assignment 84 and Englewood, Calif., native, outside the Zero Hangar here Sept. 28. Goldman received a \$26,500 bonus for reenlisting during the MMEA command visit.

support equipment electrician, after receiving the news he could reenlist with a bonus the same day.

my monitor they brought him here to me, which made the whole process so much easier," the Phoenix native added.

"Instead of jumping around trying to find

SEE MMEA ON PAGE 6



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Hector J. Duenez, head of Manpower Management Enlisted Assignment 12, addresses a group of officers at the Sakura Theater during the MMEA visit to Iwakuni Sept. 28.

MMEA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

For monitors, their bonus is knowing Marines walked away with what they wanted. Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Pequeno III, MMEA 85 drill instructor monitor, says he enjoys screening future drill and School of Infantry instructors, recruiters and Marine

Security Guards.

“I like the fact that individuals volunteer for these duties,” Pequeno said. “Leading a Marine in the right direction, as far as their career is concerned, is very rewarding for me.”



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark A. Williams, Manpower Management Enlisted Assignment aviation monitor, speaks with Cpl. Daniel L. D. Battig at the Marine Memorial Chapel during the MMEA visit here.

In the past, visits have been half-day events where MMEA personnel are flown in and out on the same day. The support received Friday, however, ensures future stops in Iwakuni will be full-day affairs.

“(MMEA personnel) loved the accommodations and they definitely praised the profes-

sionalism of the Marines, especially those who helped out,” said Smith.

“We wanted to leave the lasting impression on them that this is a place worth coming back to, where they got the support that they needed to do the job,” he added. “I got nothing but positive feedback.”

Newly arrived HM-14 meets Japanese counterpart

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun Staff

Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 participated in a squadron orientation Sept. 26 and 27 with the Iwakuni-based Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 111.

The orientation consisted of static displays hosted by the individual squadrons and command briefings on what was intended to take place during HM-14's time here. The orientation ended with softball games between the units.

The events promoted good relations between the squadrons for the upcoming year, said Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Buhr, HM-14 detachment officer-in-charge and native of Norfolk, Va.

HM-14, a newly arrived detachment from Naval Station Norfolk, Va., operates two MH-53E Sea Dragon Helicopters capable of airborne mine detection (AMD) and vertical onboard delivery (VOD). JMSDF HM-111 is the only unit outside the United States to maintain MH-53E helicopters.

"We intend to adopt from our Japanese



Petty Officer 2nd Class McKay D. Estep, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 air crewman and native of Sandusky, Ohio, enlightens members of Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 111 on the aspects of HM-14's flight simulation device during a static display of the squadron's equipment at the HM-14 hangar here Sept. 26.

counterpart additional helicopter aspects and mission capabilities," said Buhr. "We've set up static displays of our helicopters to

exchange ideas and suggestions of what could be done to make them safer and more efficient."

Both squadrons hosted tours of their hangars and aircraft during the orientation, jotting down notes on equipment that would possibly make a good addition to their own helicopters.

"Some of the things they've added to their helicopters I've never even seen," said Lt. Takao Umeda, HM-111 test coordinator and native of Hyogo prefecture, recalling the HM-14 static display. "It was very exciting as this was the first time we've been able to see a different set-up from our own. I can see that working with them will be very fulfilling."

The following morning, both squadrons met at the Penny Lake fields here for a friendly softball match.

"I think we have every reason to be scared. I mean, look... they have uniforms!" laughingly said Petty Officer 1st Class Micheal D. Kelly, HM-14 quality assurance leading petty officer and Virginia Beach, Va. native, before the start of the game.

During the game, many of the jovial Nor-

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folk-based sailors shouted in support of their team and American pastime while HM-111 put point after point onto the board.

“This game really gives us an opportunity to meet each other and have fun at the same time,” said Navy Lt. Eric R. Johnson, HM-14 public affairs officer and native of Portsmouth, Va. “These guys are really doing their part to welcome us to the air station.”

Following the softball match, the units sat under the park’s pavilion and enjoyed lunch, discussing the orientation and HM-111’s 7-3 victory.

“This cooperative event fosters good relations between our units,” said Johnson. “This orientation was a great success. We’re all looking forward to what the year will bring.”

Akitoshi Sakamoto, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 111 baseball team member and Iwakuni native narrowly slides home, putting another point on the board during a friendly softball match with Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 at the Penny Lake fields here Sept. 27. The game was part of HM-14’s squadron orientation welcoming the Norfolk-based unit here.



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Streets of Hiroshima offer more than meets the eye

by Cpl. Lendus B. Casey
Shimbun Staff

Among the hustle and bustle of downtown Hiroshima lies a treasure easily unseen by even the most avid visitors. Hidden away on the fourth floor of the small Takata Rei building, located on Ebisu dori (street) opposite the Tenmaya department store and next to McDonalds, is an unpretentious live music venue called Namiki Junction. It's a niche for many of the city's local bands and a stop off point for a number of Japan's rising stars.



Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

The Namiki Junction sign hangs right outside the elevator of the Takata Rei building. The unpretentious live music venue, located on the fourth floor, holds up to 250 people, but provides a more intimate atmosphere for a crowd.

If you're looking for a good English speaking band, look elsewhere. If country music suits your musical fancy, you'll have better luck going to Country Night at Club Iwakuni. However, if you're willing to expand your musical horizons, and can handle the raw musical talent over lyrical pleasure, then Namiki Junction is the place to be. You'll experience Japanese punk and rock music to the fullest.

Just outside the live house is a variety of posters advertising upcoming gigs giving the establishment a, sort of, grunge feel. Regardless of looks, the place offers a chance for you to experience a side of Japan you may have never considered. Namiki Junction emanates that small yet intimate club feel; and according to GetHiroshima.com, an English-language Web site created to give people updates on Hiroshima activities, the maximum capacity is around 250 people. However, even at max capacity, guests have enough room to avert any claustrophobic tendencies. The small area, actually, makes for a good crowd like feel.

The entry price varies depending on the event, and there's always a one-drink-minimum (500 yen) at the door. Though drink



Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

A crowd gathers on the main floor of Namiki Junction showing the band on stage that they really enjoy their music Sept. 28, 2007. Namiki Junction is a hidden music venue, located on Ebisu dori (street) opposite the Tenmaya department store and next to McDonalds, where many local bands and a number of Japan's rising stars perform.

prices are reasonable, Namiki Junction offers a limited selection of beer and wine coolers. Also, don't leave the main area

unless you're ready to go. Namiki Junction requires you to stay put once you buy your

SEE NAMIKI ON PAGE 10



Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

The lead singer of MiMi whales on his guitar at Namiki Junction in downtown Hiroshima Sept. 28, 2007. Just outside the live house is a variety of posters advertising upcoming gigs, which are also listed on the GetHiroshima.com events page.

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tickets and enter. You can't leave and come back unless you pay again. Once you're in – you're in.

Don't let that dissuade you, though. When

checking out Namiki Junction for the first time, I noticed the crowds in Japan are a lot safer than in the U.S. and at times, even a little more interesting. I expected to hear people cheering, whistling and clapping loudly, but that was not the case. No mosh pits were formed, no one was trying to talk

over the music, and when the band finished a song the only thing heard was a subtle clapping from the crowd. Namiki Junction is the place to be for loud music, not necessarily a loud crowd.

You can still tell when the crowd approves or disapproves of a band. If they're not interested in an act, the crowd will thin out and people will hang out away from the stage, finding solace in the walls of the room. But, when feeling the groove, the floor fills with a crowd of patrons leaning attentively over the rails listening to the great sounding band.

The lighting and sound qualities of the stage are a definite plus for the live house. With lights matching the beat and each band member given a moment to shine, Namiki Junction gives off the feel of a larger establishment. It's obvious the employees know exactly what they're doing. They leave it solely to the bands to sound good or not. Whether you're looking to make friends, experience something different in Hiroshima or simply dance the night away, Namiki Junction might be for you.

To find out more on upcoming gigs, check out the GetHiroshima.com events page or visit Namiki Junction.



Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

The lead singer of MiMi screams into the microphone while performing at Namiki Junction in downtown Hiroshima Sept. 28, 2007. Just outside the live house is a variety of posters advertising upcoming gigs, which are also listed on the GetHiroshima.com events page.

Stacked crowned champions of 3-on-3 basketball tourney

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun Staff

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Stacked walked away with the first-place trophy Saturday after a recovery from the losing bracket during the Marine Corps Community Services Three-On-Three Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym.

Stacked was victorious against the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marauders in the final game of the tournament with a 30-16 win. Micah S. Parsons, Stacked team captain, was recognized and awarded as the tournament's most valuable player.

"Near the beginning of the tournament, I had sprained my ankle and thought I was done for the day," said the Chicago native. "My team motivated me to wrap it, get back in the game and win even though we were coming from the losing bracket."

After losing to the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Bulldogs in their second game, Stacked was challenged to fight its way to the top. Their struggle nearly met an end during the first final match-up series game against the Marauders.

*"Stacked pushed its way to victory and earned that No. 1 trophy."
- Alex M. Perkins*

"We were losing our grip in the first half of the game," said Parsons. "We had made it all the way out of the losing bracket and we couldn't let the Marauders stop us at the end."

The Stacked offense was trailing closely behind the Marauders throughout the game, but ended with a score of 46-24 Stacked.

"We have a handful of great players this season," said Parsons. "A couple of our guys are currently playing ball in Okinawa because of the summer league. We're lucky to still have strong players on our team."

Many members from the 11 participating teams are also Iwakuni Intramural Summer Basketball League regulars.

"This tournament is different from the summer league in that it's a double elimination event," said Sgt. Levander G. Gibson, Bulldogs team member and native of Nor-

wich, Conn. "If a team wants to win bad enough, they won't be stuck in the losing bracket, fighting to get out."

Each 16-minute game was critical for Stacked in their drive to the winning bracket. After the scores were entered, Stacked emerged as the team with the best overall record during the tournament, earning the winning trophy.

"Stacked pushed its way to victory and earned that No. 1 trophy," said Alex M. Perkins, MCCA event coordinator. "However, the Marauders were awarded the second place trophy. They held a pretty outstanding position throughout the tournament."

For more information about MCCA intramural sports, contact Alex M. Perkins by calling 253-3067.



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Lance Cpl. Travis L. Jenkins Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marauders point guard soars through the air, dunking into the basket during the Marine Corps Community Services Three-On-Three Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Sept. 29.



Marines and sailors from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron pace carefully across the flight line here, removing various debris during a foreign object damage walk Oct. 1. This is the first of many FOD walks to come for H&HS, whose primary mission is to support and maintain flightline operations. The monthly "FOD" walk removes fragments potentially dangerous to an aircraft engine from the airfield.

OKINAWA, Japan

Marines do best superhero impersonation during helicopter rope suspension course

by Sgt. Ethan E. Roche
MCB Camp Butler

I had jumped out of helicopters before, but I had never flown underneath one.

“You’ll need a helmet and some eye protection; a solid pair of sunglasses will do,” I was told.

Prescribing such gear for a Marine taking his first stab at a commando Peter Pan impression might seem trivial to outsiders, but in the Marine Corps, we wear helmets and sunglasses when we dangle beneath a helicopter in flight. The reason is not important, but it has more to do with safety than looking cool.

Hooking up to a CH-53E Sea Stallion Helicopter about to pull you far above the trees and into flight is an experience most human beings will never know. Never mind how ludicrous the act is when you think about it — “Hey, you want to fly on the outside of the helicopter ... on a rope?”

There is something uniquely Marine about it when it’s put like that, and perhaps that’s why most Marines jump at the chance to experience the technique called Special Patrolling Insertion/Extraction rigging.

On Okinawa, that chance is provided most commonly by III Marine Expeditionary Force’s Special Operations Training Group when it runs the Helicopter Rope Suspension Training Masters Course about once every quarter.

The course is arguably the biggest perpetrator of Marines’ nonchalant, crazy-brave attitudes toward SPIE rigging. But that’s because the course turns out highly proficient and professional Marines capable of overseeing and ensuring the safety of any training or operation involving rope suspension.

Manipulating the effects of gravity with a rope, some knots and a carabineer or two is not something to be taken lightly, and HRST Master students take it very seriously over

the 11 training days they spend learning the skills.

They have to — there is little room for mistakes when you’re the guy hooking another Marine to a rope under a helicopter about to pull him far above the earth.

The course’s senior instructor, Staff Sgt. Michael Dase, says students have to master 13 knots that are common to rope suspension techniques. The knots are just the beginning, but mastering them is also the most challenging portion of the course for most students.

“We lose the majority of our people on knots,” Dase said. “You have to have a lot of self-discipline and commitment to learn and practice the knots.”

Once they teach the students knots on day one, instructors place the burden of continually practicing and mastering the knots on the students. Dase and his students said preparation and commitment are keys to



Sgt. Ethan E. Roche

Students in the Helicopter Rope Suspension Technique Masters Course conduct Special Purpose Insertion Extraction training Sept. 20 in the Central Training Area. The practical application training tested the students’ ability to oversee SPIE, fast rope and rappel operations.

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AROUND THE CORPS

OKINAWA, Japan



Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke

Students in the Helicopter Rope Suspension Technique Masters Course conduct Special Purpose Insertion Extraction training Sept. 20 in the Central Training Area. The practical application training tested the students' ability to oversee SPIE, fast rope and rappel operations.

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success.

"If you've never dealt with knots or heights before, it's hard, but if you come prepared, it's not too bad," said Cpl. Jeff Jendrzeczyk,

an assaultman with F Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

The first full week of the course focuses on rappel tower operations. Students learn how to rig a tower for basic military rappelling

and fast roping, the logistical and safety procedures involved, and how to teach average Marines the fundamentals of military rappelling.

The week at the tower is also meant to build confidence and proficiency before students move on to helicopter operations.

In the final week, students learn how to properly rig several Marine helicopters for fast rope, rappel or SPIE operations. Then, under the watchful eyes of the SOTG instructors, they practice doing it, and SPIE "riders" like me are the first to place our lives in the students' hands, not giving a second thought to a very unnatural act.

We smile behind our sunglasses, feeling secure under our helmets and flashing a confident thumbs-up at the HRST masters checking our rig, all the while having virtually no idea why or how the primary harness or the figure-eight-shaped knot on the backup is going to guarantee those post-landing smiles and motivating memories of the day we flew just like Superman, Batman or that Pan kid — or just like a Marine on a SPIE line.



Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke

An instructor in the Helicopter Rope Suspension Technique Master Course peers down at students dangling beneath a CH-53E Sea Knight Helicopter Sept. 20 during Special Purpose Insertion Extraction training in the Central Training Area.



Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke

Marines wait to be lifted by a CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopter. Students learned to oversee SPIE, fast rope and rappel operations.



Pfc. Nelson A. Casas
Queens, N.Y.

“I guess I’d like to have had more training with the weapons we worked with in MCT. It seemed like that part went by really quick.”



Cpl. Trevor J. Good
Gillette, Wyo.

“I’d like to see more actual MOUT (Military Operations on Urban Terrain). Even though I’m a (person other than grunt) it would be a valuable asset to know how to go into a building and clear it ... Whatever your (military occupation specialty) is you might have to go in, and you’re not just going to be standing there, you know, like a liability to the other Marines.”

The Marine Corps School of Infantry recently added seven more days of instruction to both Marine Combat Training and Infantry Training Battalion. Beginning this month, leathernecks will be receiving further coaching in areas such as machine gun handling, medical treatment, values-based training and combat stress management. This week we hit the streets to find out...

“What would you have added to the new School of Infantry Curriculum?”



Staff Sgt. Cory J. Yerger
Toledo, Ohio

“I really haven’t looked at the current lesson plan, but I know there are a lot of differences in the war we’re fighting these days than there were 10 or 15 years ago. There’s a lot of unseen enemies out there, and I guess I’d add anything to help prepare them for what’s going on in Iraq ... how to help them better identify who they’re dealing with rather than to shoot first and ask questions later.”



Lance Cpl. Tomacina K. Dobey
Kirtland, N.M.

“We did a lot at MCT, I really can’t say there was anything we didn’t do. My favorite was shooting and throwing grenades, so I’d add a couple more days of that.”



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