



the KINTAI
shimbun

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by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Western-style eats offered in Hiroshima hash house

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Boondocks slam Heavy Hitters, 28-13

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These stories and more...

Nov. 9, 2007

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Commanding Officer, MCAS Iwakuni

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Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Cory J. Thornton, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 engineer equipment operator and native of Youngsville, N.C., cuts a trench with a Ditch Witch during a weeklong training exercise at Penny Lake Nov. 1.

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Exercise Active Shield VIII

The Provost Marshall's Office, fire department and Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force will be conducting Exercise Active Shield VIII aboard station from Nov. 13 to 15.

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron will be conducting training during the exercise as well. The Mass Notification Public Address System will be used to announce NBC events and all clear. Any questions may be directed to section training NCOs, or contact H&HS S-3 at 253-3315.

Imported Italian heirlooms to be sold

The Chief Petty Officers Association is scheduled to sell imported Italian decorator items of O&S Collectibles De L'Arte Italiana at the M.C. Perry High School Cafeteria Nov. 17 and 18.

Ceramics, porcelains with Swarovski Crystals and hand-made collectibles by Italian artisans are some of the items that will be for sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. over the weekend.

Christmas Extravaganza Auditions

Auditions for the Dec. 8 Christmas Extravaganza will be held at the Sakura Theater Nov. 18 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 19 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Nov. 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The auditions are open for all SOFA status personnel in groups of five to 15 singers. A cash prize will be awarded to the best singing group. For more information, call 253-6745.

Station CO to host town hall meeting

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, is scheduled to host a town hall meeting at the chapel here from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 20.

Residents are encouraged to first send their concerns and recommendations through the interactive customer evaluation (ICE) prior to attending the town hall meeting to ensure prompt and adequate solutions.

- *To access the Town Hall Concerns Comment Card located on the ICE Web site, click the ICE icon located on the bottom-left side of the www.iwakuni.usmc.mil home page.*
- *Once loaded, scroll to the bottom and click "Show all."*
- *Next, click "Town Hall Concerns (Base Chapel)" at the top of the comment card list.*
- *When filling out your concerns, ensure recommendations for solving the problem are provided as well.*

Commander's Corner audio online

Residents can now download from the station website (www.iwakuni.usmc.mil) the audio file of Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, answering questions from station residents and expressing his intentions for maintaining readiness, vigilance, and quality of life aboard station during Power 1575's Commander's Corner Nov. 5.

SNCO evening dress survey

All Marines may have an impact on changes to the Marine Corps staff noncommissioned officers' evening dress uniform by taking a survey at <https://www.hsissurveys.com/usmc/sncousurvey/>.

A proposed modification to the SNCO evening dress jacket includes eliminating the bowtie and replacing it with a "standing collar and an open silhouette to provide a distinctive Marine Corps appearance apart from other services," according to the survey Web page. Those who take the survey will be able to voice their opinion to keep the current uniform or adopt the proposed changes.

Visiting UMUC academic advisors

Station service members have a chance to meet with academic advisors Nov. 26 and 27 at Building 411.

It is advised that clients make their 30-minute appointments early to ensure the scheduled time is more convenient.

Necessary documentation to bring includes any prior University of Maryland University College evaluations, any transcripts from previous colleges and all training certificates from any military school (for possible transfer credits).

‘Can you hear me now?’

Marines come in loud and clear during Penny Lake training

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

A small group of about 25 members from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 set up and conducted a communication exercise at Penny Lake here Oct. 29 through Nov. 2.

By equipping two tents with radio, telephone and computer gear, the Marines successfully linked the simulated camp sites to each other and honed skills essential to carrying out their mission in a field environment.

“We have a lot of new Marines that haven’t deployed with us yet, and coming out to Penny Lake is the best training opportunity they have before deployment to learn the tactical gear,” said Staff Sgt. Jesse R. Corray, MWSS-171 data chief and native of Peoria, Ill. “For a lot of them, it’s their first time touching it after (military occupational specialty) school.”

After constructing the tents, the service members split into three groups and began

assembling the communication systems. Radio Marines started by erecting several large antennae serving as the backbone of their equipment.

“On the radio side, we set up the radios at ‘Antennae Hill’ and then relay the signal to the main SYSOC (Systems Operations Center),” Corray said.

From the SYSOC, the Marines can communicate anywhere within a 30-mile radius depending on terrain, he added.

For the telephone and computer systems, the sites were directly wired together to accomplish the exchange of information.

“We have the two sites set up like they would be two different cities,” said Corray. “We have a tactical switchboard at each site and they can connect telephones to it and call back and forth between the two.”

“Data is similar,” he added. “There is a computer domain set up at site one and site



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

(From left) Lance Cpl. Joe R. Cantu, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 unit level circuit switch operator and San Antonio native, Lance Cpl. Mathew W. Hood, MWSS-171 field wireman and native of Winterhaven, Fla., and Cpl. Melinda E. Brooks, MWSS-171 field wireman and native of Hyannis, Mass., operate a field switchboard during a weeklong training exercise at Penny Lake Nov. 1.

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Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

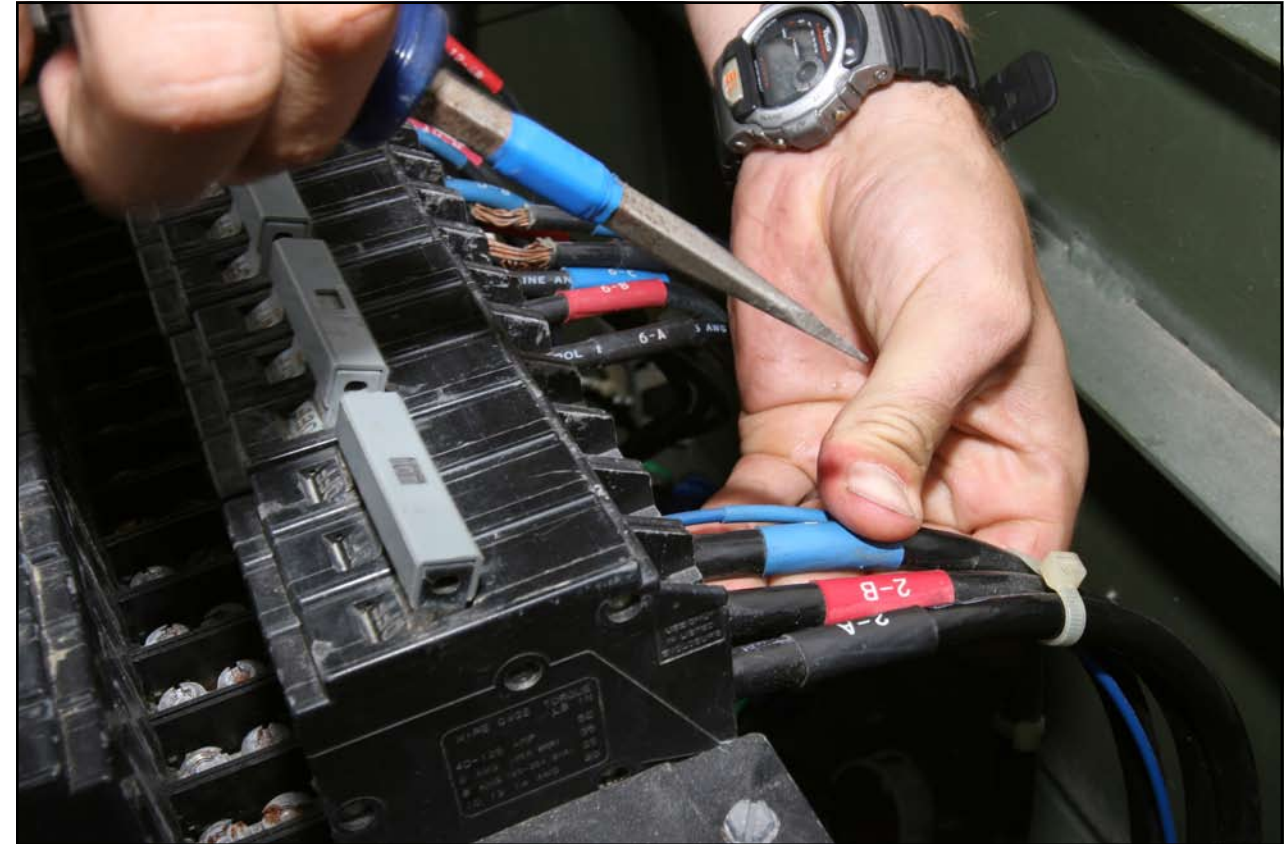
Lance Cpl. Joshua R. Harris, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 electrician and native of Oakland, Md., rewires a Mobile Electric Power Distribution System during a weeklong training exercise at Penny Lake Nov. 1.

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two, and the goal of this exercise was to pass e-mail traffic and files back and forth. Once this is set up, if we have support from higher we could have a satellite shot and full Internet access.”

The training was an opportunity for some Marines to not only to gain experience with the tactical equipment in their field, but get a glimpse of the jobs of their peers as well.

“All the knowledge we have out here makes everyone a little smarter in their MOS, even



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Joshua R. Harris, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 electrician and native of Oakland, Md., rewires a Mobile Electric Power Distribution System during a weeklong training exercise at Penny Lake Nov. 1.

if you want to do cross-MOS training,” said Lance Cpl. Mathew W. Hood, MWSS-171 field wireman and Winterhaven, Fla., native. “Someone’s always willing to teach you about data even if you’re radio. We have a lot of good team players out here.”

For Lance Cpl. Joshua R. Harris, a native of Oakland, Md., the week went by like any other as the MWSS-171 electrician did what he knows best.

“I just like being out here doing my job,” he said.

232 miles ran, reflecting 232 years of history

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 honored the 232nd Marine Corps birthday anniversary Tuesday through Thursday by running a mile for each individual year of its history at the north side track here.

Participants began the run Tuesday evening and ran throughout the night and the following day, individually carrying the squadron's guidon around the track and passing it to the next runner after each mile.

The 5th annual run began with Sgt. Maj. James C. Kirkland, squadron sergeant major and Des Moines, Iowa native, along with Lt. Col. Nicholas L. Knight, MALS-12 commanding officer and native of Clarksville, Tenn., carrying the guidon through the first and second miles. Petty Officer 2nd Class Carolyn A. White, MALS-12 aviation machinist, said seeing each Marine running a mile in honor of the birthday is an encouraging way to recognize tradition.

"We take a lot of pride in our history," said

the Houston native. "It's good to see that tradition doesn't get pushed aside because we are all so busy all the time. I really enjoy the camaraderie in this unit."

Marines showed up at their scheduled time to take the guidon around the track. The squadron ran the last three miles together, finishing at Penny Lake field for its annual field meet. Kirkland described what it's like to see his Marines participate in the run.

"It's one of those heartfelt moments that you always remember about your career," said Kirkland. "It's the same chill down your spine you get when you're standing at attention for the Marine Corps hymn, except now you're carrying the guidon around the track."

Units carry their guidon bearing the Marine Corps emblem and their unit's name as a sense of pride, according to Lance Cpl. Andres J. Garza, MALS-12 module technician. The tradition of unit members running a mile for each year of Marine Corps history is one that Kirkland says will instill pride and the "one-fight" mindset on all Marines in the squadron.



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Gunnery Sgt. Gregory C. Krenek and Master Sgt. William E. Potts run mile 113 in honor of the 232nd Marine Corps birthday anniversary Nov. 7.

"Running one mile isn't going to challenge very many Marines," said Garza, a Sayner, Wis. native. "But while you're running, you can't help but think of the history behind each year. Each Marine in MALS-12, while carrying the guidon around this track,

thinks about the history and thinks about the future. Maybe a few years from now, Marines might be running this track, thinking about the history we're making today."

VA benefits: Big bucks to stave off deep debt

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

Veterans Assistance offers a wealth of helpful resources for service members making the transition to the private sector. For one retired sailor, its aid meant the difference between a comfortable life for her family or a constant struggle with mounting medical costs.

“I had a serious leg injury. It was a freak accident while I was on active duty ... that required multiple operations,” said Dianah L. Nelson. “It was extremely overwhelming - the burden of having a young family, trying to be a wife and mother and having a serious disability that just made life a lot more complicated.”

But the Des Moines, Iowa, native discovered she was entitled to VA benefits, which paid for her treatment and turned her financial situation around. As the new Marine and Family Services veteran service representative here, Nelson is taking her personal experience and sharing it with others who may be facing similar circumstances.

“I consider myself a poster child for VA benefits,” she said. “It’s just crazy not to take advantage of them. I think now more than ever we have some of the best benefit programs of any country in the world for our veterans.”

By sitting down one-on-one with military personnel, Nelson can discuss the availability and eligibility requirements of resources such as home loans, tuition assistance, life insurance and health care. Filing for many benefits can be done within 180 days prior to a service member’s discharge as a pre-discharge claim.

“What it means to them is one: it makes the transition into civilian life easier. Two: it means money,” she explained.

Nelson also teaches a portion of the Transition Assistance Program workshop, a mandatory three-day class for all Marines and sailors separating within one year, in which she explains the use of VA benefits.

“I learned a lot. There’s a lot of stuff that surprised me - things that my great-grandfather could have had that my parents over-



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Dianah L. Nelson, Marine and Family Services veteran service representative and native of Des Moines, Iowa, teaches students about Veterans Assistance benefits during a recent Transition Assistance Program workshop at Building 411 here Oct. 13.

looked because they just didn’t know,” said Pfc. Kody L. Shook, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor vehicle operator who recently participated in the class.

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“I wrote a few things down like the home loan ... and the \$5,000 grant you can possibly get,” added the Chelsea, Okla., native. “There are things you get paid for where you’re just like, ‘Wow, they’ll actually pay for that?’”

Nelson encourages anyone preparing to leave active duty service to make an appointment and get educated on what is available to them, because when it comes to VA benefits, ignorance is not bliss.

“It’s important to know how to use your benefits and it’s important to know the eligibility requirements,” she said. “These programs are there to help save them money, and lots of it. It could save a veteran, depending on their facts and circumstances, thousands up to hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, MCAS Iwakuni will be receiving year-round overseas military services coordinator coverage from a rotating staff of veteran service representatives. Nelson, who arrived from Des Moines on Oct. 1, will remain here until Dec. 21, and says she has enjoyed lending her expertise with the Marines and sailors.



Dianah L. Nelson, Marine and Family Services veteran service representative and native of Des Moines, Iowa, teaches students about Veterans Assistance benefits during a recent Transition Assistance Program workshop at Building 411 here Oct. 13.

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

“I like Iwakuni a lot,” Nelson said. “So far I haven’t run into anybody who hasn’t been incredibly kind, respectful or helpful.”

For more information on VA benefits, contact Marine and Family Services here at 253-6439 or log on to www.va.gov.

We ask, they tell: Native American heritage through three warriors' eyes

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

From the gallant actions of the code talkers during World Wars I and II to the selfless service of those fighting on the front lines today in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, Native Americans have made countless contributions to America's armed forces.

In celebration of their proud heritage and accomplishments, Department of Defense installations around the world are recognizing November as Native American History Month.

To commemorate the event, the station equal opportunity office is displaying informational booths at both Building 1 and the foyer in Crossroads Mall. A luncheon featuring Native American guest speakers is also being planned for later in the month.

This week I sat down with several Iwakuni leathernecks willing to share their thoughts on what it means to be a Native American in the world's most feared fighting force.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Gerald R. Barnes, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer and native of Belleville, N.J., works on a project at the engineers' shop Nov. 5. Barnes was proud to share his ancestry with the Kintai Shimbun during Native American Heritage Month in November.

Lance Cpl. Gerald R. Barnes
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Combat engineer

What is your Native American heritage?

GB: "My tribes' names are Haida and Tglinigt. We're from southern Alaska."

How do your beliefs as a Native American coincide with the Marines' Core Values?

GB: "We have a lot of honor being Native American ... so most of it's about honor and being respectful to my elders."

How does something like having respect for your elders tie in to life in the Marine Corps?

GB: "Like with my superiors. (The Marine Corps) is basically like a giant family, and it's like the same thing with tribes ... Basically, the Corps is like a giant tribe to me."

Lance Cpl. Paul D. Brownstead
Marine Aircraft Group 12
Aviation information systems specialist

Tell me a little bit about your Native American heritage.

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Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Paul D. Brownstead, Marine Aircraft Group 12 aviation information systems specialist and Milford, Ohio, native, was proud to share his ancestry with the Kintai Shimbun during Native American Heritage Month in November.

HERITAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

PB: “My mother and father are both American Indian. My mother is Cherokee and my father is Blackfoot. The Blackfoot are from the Montana area ... and I think the Cherokee are more along the Eastern part of the United States.”

Why do you think it’s important we recognize November as Native American Heritage Month?

PB: “I feel that it’s important because there are a lot of people today that don’t have Indian (ancestry) ... and they see the pride of what it means to be an Indian. It’s something nowadays that’s rare, and when you talk to a Native American it brings you back to the mindset that, ‘These people were (in America) before most of my relatives got here.’ They were free people with their own rules and laws.”

What are some ways you stay in touch with your Native American roots throughout the year?

PB: “Just being that warrior. I have a tattoo of a warrior Indian, and every time I see that, I think of the Marine Corps. I think of where I came from as far as the ancestry of warriors goes, and that’s one of the reasons why I became a Marine - because of that warrior intensity.”



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Tomacina K. Dobey, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 hygiene equipment operator and native of Kirtland N.M., organizes tools in the MWSS-171 utilities tool room Nov. 6. Dobey was proud to share her ancestry with the Kintai Shimbun during Native American Heritage Month.

**Lance Cpl. Tomacina K. Dobey
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Hygiene equipment operator**

Can you tell me about your Native American heritage?

TD: “I’m Navajo. I’m not really sure where

they originated, but (my tribe) is mostly in the area of four corners – Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.”

How does your heritage inspire you in terms of your military career?

TD: “As far as the military goes, I had three

of my great-grandparents who were all Navajo code talkers. I have plenty of relatives and other family members who were in the military too. I had an uncle who was in the Marines, so they’re kind of the reason why I joined.”

That must make you pretty proud. Do you feel you’re carrying on a family legacy?

TD: In a way, yes. But as far as what the generation before me did, it’s not the same as what they did in the military. They fought in World War I and II and are the reason why (Navajo code talkers) are so well known. It was a big reason why I joined.”

For more information on events or how to share your story during Native American Heritage Month, contact the station equal opportunity advisor’s office at 253-4186.

Books on Parade: Fun fall event brings stories to life

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

A long line of costumed youngsters put on a show for station residents as Matthew C. Perry kindergarten through 6th-graders joined in a Storybook Parade Wednesday.

The colorful procession, accompanied by teachers and escorts from the Provost Marshal's Office, made its way from the school to Crossroads Mall, where the children collected candy before returning to the M.C. Perry Playground.

"We all get together and kick off the fall season," said Pamela Anthony, M.C. Perry 5th grade teacher and Columbus, Ga., native. "It's really fun and educational at the same time."

Participants were required to dress as a character from their book of choice while they carried a copy to show off to onlookers. The costumes ranged from strange (a shark with two legs hanging out the mouth) to just plain silly (a walking sushi roll).

Anderson, who came dressed as the duck from the children's book "Giggle, Giggle,



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Matthew C. Perry 3rd-graders (from left) Daniel Acevedo, James Mims and Kobe Lambert line up to receive candy at the Crossroads Mall during the M.C. Perry Storybook Parade Oct. 31.

Quack," said the event is a fun way to encourage student involvement with books.

"We're doing this for the right reasons," she said. "We're celebrating reading and having fun."

Perry 6th-grader Joseph Jolley, who came

dressed as a genie from the book "Children of the Lamp," said he enjoyed reading his book and playing his favorite character during the parade.

"But I like to get the candy more," the 11-year old added with a smile.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Children partaking in the Matthew C. Perry Elementary Storybook Parade make a stop at Crossroads mall to grab handfuls of candy Oct. 31.

Western-style eats offered in Hiroshima hash house

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

Since my arrival to Japan, I've been hard-pressed to find a reputable chophouse such as those I had come to love in the states. My appetite for a 12-oz. steak served with a side of roasted potatoes oftentimes meets the healthy eating habits of the Japanese natives, leaving my belly thoroughly unimpressed. As an overseas Marine and a gourmand at heart, I am putting my fist down.

I took a Saturday-morning train to Hiroshima Nov. 3, promising myself and my liberty buddy a full belly by the end of the night.

After jotting down directions from Hiroshima locals, by nightfall I was able to find a stylish and comfortable greasy spoon called the Bikkuri Donkey.

The restaurant is quietly hidden underneath the busy shopping mayhem of Hondori Street north of the famous Parco Mall. Its entrance is easily overlooked by those who aren't already searching for its brick-laden staircase that leads underground, adding to

the hole-in-wall atmosphere.

The hash house meets many standards normally held in popular western restaurants including an abundant selection of hamburger steaks, a nice variety of chocolate desserts, and decorative whatnots on the walls - think Applebee's or T.G.I. Friday's. Katsuok Yasuhiro, Bikkuri Donkey franchise owner and Hiroshima native, says he hired a team of interior designers and antique buyers to give his restaurant a "hand-made" atmosphere.

"I built this place with a mom-and-pop warmth in mind," said Yasuhiro. "I want this place to be a go-to restaurant for both families and couples."

The restaurant is a bit more fun than normal family restaurants and is also organically friendly, according to GetHiroshima.com, an English-language Web site created to give people well-rounded reviews on Hiroshima hot-spots.

The Bikkuri Donkey menu, shaped like old western saloon doors, boasts using fewer chemicals and no herbicides on their veg-



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Pfc. Aubry L. Buzek, American Forces Network television news anchor and San Antonio native, glances over the menu before entering the Bikkuri Donkey restaurant Nov. 3.

etables and grazing pastures, resulting in a more pure and natural beef product.

How could a beef lover such as me resist?

The Bikkuri Donkey happened to offer three different sizes of hamburger steak for three different appetites. The selection was a 150-

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Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

A slice of double dark chocolate layer cake and a cup of mocha-chino is served at the Bikkuri Donkey restaurant Nov. 3.

BIKKIRI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

gram steak for 618 yen, 300-gram steaks for 798 yen and a 400-gram steak for 978 yen. To give you an idea, the 400-gram steak is about half the dimensions of a full-size computer keyboard and quite enough to make a meal without the need of a side item. Not intimidated?

A platter of generously-cut fried potatoes was also available for 312 yen; and if this

wasn't enough, a very lengthy selection of attractive desserts with an emphasis on chocolate was offered to finish the night off. We liked the double dark chocolate layer cake that sold at 300 yen per slice.

"Bikkuri Donkey serves simply the best food I've had since I've been here in Japan," said Pfc. Aubry L. Buzek, American Forces Network television news anchor and San Antonio native. "It's tasty and relatively inexpensive."



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

The 200-gram hamburger steak and double dark chocolate layer cake at the Bikkuri Donkey restaurant waits to be eaten after a long search for a good chophouse Nov. 3.

Our 1,879-yen ticket was agreeable compared to a normally \$30 table-for-two ticket from steakhouses in the good old U.S. of A. What's the big difference?

Bikkuri Donkey, a chain of more than 300 restaurants around Japan, breeds all their own cattle, farms and supervises production of all their dairy, grain, meat and vegetable products, and even brews their own beer, according to the Bikkuri Donkey Web site. All their income stays within their "circle

of deliciousness" as stated on the Web site, much like how the air station channels its commercially-earned money back into the community.

In result, Bikkuri Donkey becomes a self-supporting chain of tasty eateries, attracting a variety of hungry guests.

For more information on directions and reservations, visit www.bikkuri-donkey.com.

Boondocks slam Heavy Hitters, 28-13



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Boondocks prepare a game plan at the halftime break during the fifth game of the Marine Corps Community Services intramural flag football season at the North Side football field here.

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

Rain and sweat and tears made for a soaked and stoked 28-13 victory for Boondocks Monday night against the Heavy Hitters during the fifth game of the Marine Corps Community Services intramural flag football season at the North Side football field here.

The victory improved Boondocks' record to 5-0 and puts them into the No. 1 position in league standings thus far.

Both teams suffered many incomplete passes and fumbles due to Monday's wet climate.

"We came in there thinking our running game was going to win it for us," said Mathew A. Richards, Heavy Hitters defensive back from Annapolis, Md. "It turned out to be a lot more difficult than expected, and we just weren't prepared for all the little factors and injuries."

With six minutes left in the first half, Mathew A. Davenport, Heavy Hitters running back and Winfield, Kan. native, took the place of his injured quarterback, who was

experiencing trouble in his left knee.

"We could have pulled through if our quarterback would have stayed in," said Davenport. "The only thing we had to count on at that point was our running game."

But it seemed that their replacement running back was all thumbs as the Heavy Hitters experienced three turnovers due to fumbles before finally completing a pass to Randy L. Cross, Heavy Hitters wide receiver out of Hampton, Va., ending the half.

"It was exciting at the time because it seemed we had a good chance to take the lead after coming back from halftime," said Cross.

Halftime was Heavy Hitters' chance to generate a strategy to counter the Boondocks offense. Words from the sideline suggested that Heavy Hitters would prepare for an aggressive running game coming from Boondocks.

Kevin J. Meduik, Boondocks team captain out of St. Louis, said his team would keep the

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lead in the second half if they started running the option play.

“As long as we use surprise pitches from the quarterback, we should be able to push back the Heavy Hitter’s defense one play at a time,” said Meduik.

Heavy Hitters’ defense was shoved back with several first downs and long passes by Boondocks.

Josh L. Fleckner, Boondocks wide receiver and New Baltimore, Ohio native, scored three touchdowns in the middle of the half.

“It was really exciting but it seems (Heavy Hitters) had no footing,” Fleckner said. “We were able to run in for a goal each time we had possession and keep the lead through the end of the game.”

As the clock ran down, Heavy Hitters experienced more turnovers with little gain. Boondocks was able to halt the Heavy Hitters’ offense until the end of the game.

“Our work was decent and it earned us another win,” said Meduik. “We’re not going to blame it on the rain, we’re going to come back next week and do it better.”



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Boondocks offense prepares to snap the ball during the fifth game of the Marine Corps Community Services intramural flag football season at the North Side football field here.



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, goes live with Lance Cpl. Bryan A. McDonnell, American Forces Network broadcaster, on Power 1575's Commander's Corner to talk about the upcoming town hall meeting scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 20, at Marine Memorial Chapel here. O'Halloran spent an hour answering questions from station residents and expressing his intentions to maintain readiness, vigilance and quality of life aboard the air station.



MAG-12 Marines kick off Sumo Tiger in Bangladesh

1st Lt. Adrian J.T. Rankine-Galloway
MCB Camp Butler

Morning mist rose above a jungle-bound airfield in Bangladesh Oct. 25 as aircraft from Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 314 and the Bangladesh Air Force revved to life to start a day of flight operations during Exercise Sumo Tiger 2007.

The “Black Knights” of VMFA-314 and several other detachments from Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, participated in the bilateral exercise between the U.S. Marines Corps and BAF Oct. 24-31.

“The purpose of this exercise is to practice and learn from each other,” said Wing Cmdr. Rafik, the senior BAF officer in charge of the exercise, as he addressed U.S. and Bangladeshi officers on the opening day of the exercise. “We look forward to some good, safe flying.”

Sumo Tiger is part of an ongoing effort by the U.S. military to strengthen the security of Asia and the Pacific region by enhancing U.S. forces’ ability to work alongside militaries throughout the region and by promoting professional relationships between exercise participants.

During the exercise, the Black Knights went head-to-head in training against Chinese-manufactured F-7 Fantan jet fighters and Russian-built MiG-29 Fulcrums.

“The Bangladesh Air Force personnel are very professional,” said Lt. Col. Flay R. Goodwin, the Black Knights commanding officer. “They have taken care of us since we got here, and it has been good to fly with them.”

The exercise focused heavily on the exchange between American and Bangladeshi pilots, but aviation support personnel from both countries also shared expertise. From air traffic control to aircraft maintenance to crash fire rescue, Marines and BAF personnel teamed up to share knowledge and learn from one another.

“It’s a good experience,” said Gunnery Sgt. Randal Southern, an air traffic controller with Marine Air Control Squadron 4. “You get to see different aspects of controlling and the different way they do things.”

Military personnel from both countries took a day off from flying Oct. 26 to allow the Kurmitola Air Base community to see the U.S. and Bangladeshi aircraft. Hundreds of family



1st Lt. Adrian J.T. Rankine-Galloway

Family members and friends of Bangladesh Air Force personnel gather around a U.S. Marine Corps F/A-18C Hornet fighter aircraft during an open house Oct. 26 at Kurmitola Air Base, Bangladesh. Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 314 is currently participating in Exercise Sumo Tiger 2007, a bilateral training exercise between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Bangladesh Air Force.

members and friends got an up-close look at an American F/A-18C Hornet and a Bangladeshi F-7 and MiG-29.

“I’m exhausted, but I’ve never smiled so much,” said Maj. Scott Fortner, a pilot with

the Black Knights after an afternoon of showing off his aircraft to throngs of curious Bangladeshi visitors.



Warrant Officer Justin W. Burdick
Salem, Ore.
The new publication should be called the Iwakuni Sunrise. This is the land of the rising sun. People usually associate a sunrise with “first thing in the morning” or “fresh and new.” It’s fitting.

Sgt. Kevin B. Flynn
Milton, Fla.
I want it to be called the Iwakuni Gazette. In my hometown, the newspaper was called the Milton Gazette. The name would make more residents feel like they’re at home. It’s simple and the name isn’t confusing.



During the Nov. 5 Commander’s Corner on Power 1575, Station Commanding Officer Col. Michael A. O’Halloran talked about plans to once again distribute a print version of Iwakuni’s weekly publication. This week we ask ...

What do you think the name of the new print newspaper should be?



Seaman Jeff S. Searcy
Nicholasville, Ky.
The name of the publication shouldn’t change. The Kintai Shimbun has been around since I first arrived here. Before that, it was the Torii Teller and that was an actual newspaper. The name now is really unique and people know exactly what you’re talking about when you say it. If we change it, there’s even more a chance that they’ll never read it because they don’t know what it is.

Lance Cpl. Ross J. Bates
Kokomo, Ind.
It should be called the Foreign & Domestic. It makes sense because we’re in a foreign country and yet the air station seems a lot like America. It should also have stories about the whole Marine Corps instead of just here.





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