



Go MARS,
Young Man

Torii Teller

Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan
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SSGT. CHARLEY TRAWEEK (RIGHT) IS CONGRATULATED BY LTCOL. HENRY O. GROOMS, VMCJ-1 CO, FOR A SUGGESTION HE MADE WHICH RESULTED IN THE REPAINTING OF THE TAILS OF THE SQUADRON'S AIRCRAFT. TRAWEEK SUGGESTED THAT THE ROYAL BLUE, GOLD AND SCARLET COLORS OF VMCJ-1 BE MORE PROMINATELY DISPLAYED ON THE PLANES. TRAWEEK IS THE NCOIC OF THE SQUADRON'S METAL SHOP.

Three 1stMAW Officers Promoted To Colonel

Three Marine officers recently received their eagles here.

Col. Frederick P. Anthony, MAG-12 executive officer, was promoted to his present rank July 30. Col. Edgar J. Love, executive officer of MACG-18 and Col. Robert H. Schultz, 1stMAW assistant chief of staff, G-3, were promoted to their present ranks July 18.

Speed Lowered

Speed limits are being lowered on both city streets and the two national highways in the Iwakuni area. By Aug. 16 the maximum speed limit for most of Iwakuni City will be 30 kilometers per hour (approximately 18 mph). Both National Route 2 and 188 now have a maximum speed limit of 50 kph (approximately 30 mph) in the Iwakuni area.

Marine Earns Medal of Honor

PFC Ralph E. Dias was posthumously presented the Medal of Honor recently, the 56th Marine to earn the nation's highest award for action in Vietnam.

Vice President Gerald R. Ford presented the medal to Dias' mother, Mrs. Anna M. Dias of Spottswood, N. J. in a ceremony at Blair House in Washington, D. C.

Dias was cited for gallantry on Nov. 12, 1969 while serving as a rifleman with Company D, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

The citation read in part: "As a member of a reaction force which was pinned down by enemy fire while assisting a platoon in the same circumstance, Dias initiated an aggressive assault against an enemy machine gun bunker which was the principal source of hostile fire.

"Severely wounded by enemy snipers while charging across the open area, he pulled himself to the shelter of a nearby rock. Braving enemy fire for a second time, Dias was again wounded. Unable to walk, he crawled 15 meters to the protection of a rock located near his

objective, and repeatedly exposing himself to intense hostile fire, unsuccessfully threw several grenades at the machine gun.

"Still determined to destroy the emplacement, Dias again moved into the open and was wounded a third time by sniper fire. As he threw a last grenade which destroyed the enemy position, he was mortally wounded."

Born July 15, 1950 in Indiana, Pa., Dias enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 1967.

Enrollment Changes

Due to a recent change in eligibility requirements, corporals, who complete the MCI course The Marine Noncommissioned Officer, can now enroll in the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy Extension Course. It consists of nine subcourses in general military subjects, leadership and training.

Enrollment cards and further information can be obtained from SSGT. L. D. Koder at Station Training, Bldg. 216.



THE USS SAIPAN, LHA-2, SITS AT THE RIGHT SURROUNDED BY HIGH SCAFFOLDING AT THE INGALLS SHIPBUILDING YARD IN PASCAGOULA, MISS., WHILE WORKMEN MAKE HER READY FOR LAUNCHING. THE SAIPAN WILL JOIN HER SISTER SHIP, THE USS TARAWA, LHA-1, VISIBLE IN THE BACKGROUND, FOR COMPLETION. THE USS BELLEAU WOOD, THIRD IN THE SERIES OF GENERAL PURPOSE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIPS, SITS ON THE IMMEDIATE LEFT OF THE SAIPAN.

Two Selection Boards Meet At HQMC

Two selection boards are currently meeting at Headquarters Marine Corps.

One board will recommend male officers for major; women officers for colonel, lieutenant colonel and major; and limited duty officers for lieutenant colonel, major and captain. The other board will select Marines for the top two enlisted pay grades.

The enlisted selection board is authorized to pick 102 sergeants major, 176 master gunnery sergeants, 160 first sergeants and 900 master sergeants. The board is expected to be in session until late September.

The combined officer board is authorized to select 381 majors from 475 in the promotion zone. However Manpower officials say no specific cutoff to the promotion zone has been established because "recent separations could make a fixed zone meaningless."

Instead, the board has been told to select from the most senior 475 captains not previously considered for promotion. There are 86 in the above zone category, while the eligibility zone consists of 1839 captains.

Eight picks are authorized to LDO lieutenant colonel. There are 12 majors in the promotion zone, ending with Charles G. Mulford, number 20 on the Jan. 1, 1974 Combined Lineal List. Three are in the above zone category. By law there can be no below zone LDO selections.

For LDO major, 38 selections are authorized with 40 captains in the promotion zone. The junior captain is Fredric L. Fletcher, number 154 on the lineal list. Two are in the above zone.

The board is authorized 100 selections to LDO captain. The promotion zone contains 105 first lieutenants, the junior being Nickolas G. Fotinos, number 164 on the lineal list.

For woman officers, one selection

is authorized to colonel with two lieutenant colonels in the promotion zone, ending with Martha A. Cox. There is one above the zone, and four below, ending with Roberta N. Patrick.

Two selections are authorized to lieutenant colonel, with three majors in the promotion zone, five above the zone and seven in the eligibility zone. The promotion zone ends with Gail M. Reals, and the eligibility zone with Gale L. Stienon.

For major, five selections are authorized with six captains in the promotion zone, ending with Loretta J. Liehs. There are eight in the above zone, and 12 in the eligibility zone, ending with Gloria E. Smith.

The officer selection board is headed by MajGen. Charles D. Mize. Other members are: BrigGens. Albert C. Pommerenk and Kenneth McLennan; Cols. Valeria F. Hilgart, Nicholas M. Laslavic Jr., Thomas R. Stuart, Vaughn L. DeBoever,

Billy D. Bouldin and Melvin H. Sautter.

The recorder is LtCol. James P. McWilliams Jr., assisted by Capt. Charles R. Porter.

Col. Harry H. Holmberg heads the enlisted promotion board. Other members are: LtCols. Donald G. Gascoigne, Robert A. Monfort, Stephen Ondrako Jr., Thomas C. Dolson, James E. Cassity, Orlo K. Steele and Jerry D. Peterson; Maj. George H. Douse, Alfred D. Bailey, Herbert Nelke, Harvey C. Barnum Jr., Thomas B. Cullen, Thomas P. Keenan Jr. and Arch Ratliff Jr.; Capt. James T. Aspbury Jr. and Marguerite J. Campbell; and CWOs Edwin J. Brown and Ernest E. Johnson.

Capt. Richard T. Kohl is the recorder, assisted by 1stLts. Alfred A. Cortez and John A. Tempone.

LtCol. D. W. Thompson New MWCS-18 CO

LtCol. Daryl W. Thompson assumed command of MWCS-18 here July 31. He replaced LtCol. George Clark who is being transferred to the Landing Force Training Command, Pacific at Coronado, Calif.

Just before taking command of the communications squadron, LtCol. Thompson was promoted to his present rank. He has been the executive officer of the squadron since March.

Consulate Limits Service

The American Consulate at Fukuoka will be operating with a very limited staff next week because of the Japanese Obon festival, Aug. 12-16.

Consulate officials ask that U. S. service men and women contact the Consulate only on urgent business during the week.



FIRST LT. RONALD L. LARD (PARTIALLY HIDDEN BY THE CANOPY ON THE LEFT) GIVES SOME FIRST HAND INSTRUCTION TO TWO JAPANESE AIR SELF DEFENSE FORCE OFFICERS DURING THEIR VISIT TO THE AIR STATION JULY 30. FIRST LT. LARD IS A PILOT WITH VMFA-232.



SSGT. JAMES J. MACKIN (RIGHT) EXPLAINS TO CPL. ASHTON R. DELAHOUSSEY THE OPERATION OF THE MARS STATION'S TELETYPE TRANSMITTER BANK.



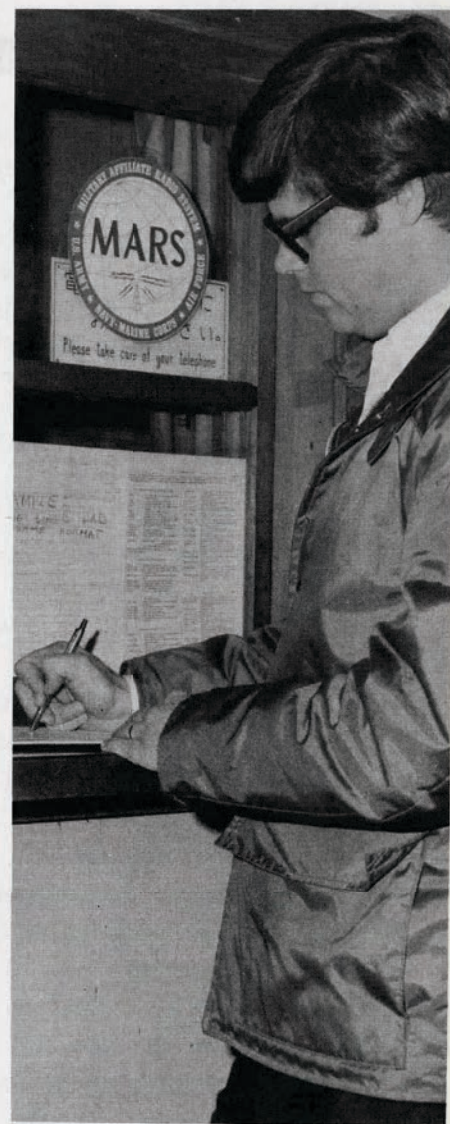
SSGT. NORMAN P. MACINTOSH OPERATES THE CONTROL BOARD DURING A MARS CALL. THE MARS STATION TRANSMITS APPROXIMATELY 100 CALLS DAILY.

MARS Is

It is approximately 35,000,000 miles to Mars, yet MARS is only a phone call away here.

The Air Station's Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) station processes from 60 to 80 calls to the United States each day and another 40 calls are made daily to other parts of the world. The MARS Station also transmits approximately 100 MARSgrams each month.

"We have four men in our shop counting myself and we are open six days a week," said MSgt. Leman Bradley, NCOIC of the Station. "From Monday to Friday we are open from 9 a.m. until 3 a.m. and on Saturdays



DAVE DECKER, A CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE HERE, FILLS OUT A MARSGRAM. MARSGRAMS OF 25 WORDS OR LESS ARE SENT FREE BY THE MARS STATION HERE.

Only A Phone Call Away

Story and Photos by SSgt. D. L. Benson

we are open from 9 a.m. until we complete the list of calls."

MARS calls, or phone patches as they are known at the station, are usually made in three steps. The first leg of the call is a radio signal from here that is bounced off the ionosphere to the MARS Station at MCAS El Toro, Calif. The MARS Station at El Toro completes the second leg by calling the military or civilian radio operator nearest the recipient. The final leg of the call is a commercial telephone call.

Once the connection is completed the two parties can begin their conversation.

"One important thing to remember," said MSgt. Bradley, "is that since this communication is mostly by radio it is necessary for both parties to say 'over' every time they have completed a statement or transmission. This allows the operators to throw the relay switches so the other person may then speak. This is not like a regular telephone conversation. Only one person can talk at once since it is a radio transmission."

The only charge for these three minute calls is the price of a station-to-station collect call from the radio operator nearest the recipient

to the destination of the call.

Another service provided by the MARS Station is MARSgrams. MARSgrams are written messages, 25 words or less, that are sent by teletype from Iwakuni to the nearest civilian or military teletype operator to where the recipient is located.

If the recipient is within local telephone calling distance, the message is read over the phone. If not, it is sent by mail. There is no charge for the service.

So, the next time you want to make a call to the United States, you might consider calling MARS. It could save you time and money.



MSGT. LEMAN BRADLEY, NCOIC OF THE MARS STATION, TRANSMITS A MARSGRAM ON THE STATION'S TELETYPE.

10 Cents	Second Class	TO: _____	FROM: _____
20 Cents	First Class		
26 Cents	Airmail		

Staple Here

CAUTION : A Letter May NOT Be Included With Second Class Postage.