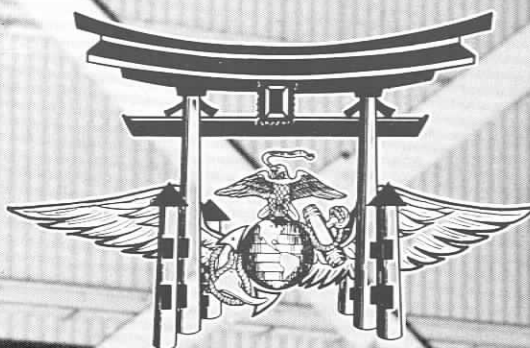


Torii

Marine Corps Air Station
Iwakuni, Japan

Vol. 31 No. 22 June 6, 1986



Teller

A Department of
Defense Model
Installation



Tsuyu-- Japan's month-long monsoon

Most Americans with an ear for music have heard the once popular song about April showers bringing May flowers. Well in Japan, it is actually a gift of the gods; a season beginning in mid-June so placed as to temper the exuberance of spring and slow the mad rush into the heat of summer.

Depending on whether they are farmers or city dwellers, the Japanese call the extra season "tsuyu" or "baiu." For farmers, it is the time for planting rice. For city dwellers, it is the days and nights of sopping saturation, damp, clammy, moldy and gray.

The Japanese know, however, that the discomfort and effects of mildew are well compensated, because this period of rain has an overwhelming influence on food production. It usually dictates whether water will be plentiful or scarce for the rest of the year.

It's during this period that city and prefectural drinking water supplies are replenished. While in the rural areas, the tender rice sprouts of Japan's main staple are taken from protective nurseries and planted in the paddies.

According to the Hiroshima Meteorological Agency, the rainy



season has set in throughout Japan except Hokkaido. The Iwakuni area enters the rainy season tomorrow. It was one day later than that of the average

year, and the same day as last year. The agency predicts that this year's rainy season will end around July 15.

Chaplain's Call



Catholic:

Mass: Sat., 5 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m. Confession: Sat., 4 p.m. Parish Choir: Mon., 7 p.m., CCD Classes: Sun., 10:15 a.m., Chapel Center

Protestant:

Sun., 7:45 a.m., Communion every Sunday, Sunday School 9-10 a.m. Chapel Center, General Protestant Divine Worship 10:30 a.m. Chapel Choir Practice, Tue., 7 p.m. Gospel Service, Sun., 5 p.m. Gospel Bible Study, Wed., 7:30 p.m., Gospel Choir Practice, Tue. and Fri., 7 p.m., Spirit Life Fellowship, Sat., 7 p.m.,

L.D.S.

Sun., 1 p.m., Chapel Center
Church of Christ
Sun., 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wed., 7 p.m. Chapel Annex

Pentecostal Fellowship

Church of God (CLTN); Bible Study Wed. and Fri., 7:30, Worship Service, Sun., 1 p.m., Chapel Annex.

Buddhist

Contact MCPO Hatcher

Jewish

2nd Fri. each month 5 p.m.

Lutheran

Last Sun., each month, noon, Chapel

United Pentecostal Church

Sat., 7 p.m.

For Orthodox, Muslim or any other religious services information, call the Station Chaplain's Office, 5218/3371.

Torii Teller

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PA Chief GySgt. J.W. Hunt
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The not-so-simple art of spinning records

Gunnery Sergeant Bob Bullion, SSgt. Pete Masiel and Sgt. Timothy Vreeland all agree: It's not as easy as it looks. What's not as easy? The part-time job that three Marines known as Disco Bob, Paco, and T.C. share in the Air Station's Clubs.

The disc jockey may seem a glamorous figure - standing on a dim stage with a pair of headphones sandwiched between head and shoulder, one hand working a turntable while the other adjusts a mixer, all while saying amusing things into a microphone. But adding the long hours spent standing and the constant pressure to please the crowd, the not-so-simple art of "spinning records" turns into hard work, dedication and money invested in an expensive craft.

"Disco Bob" Bullion of H&MS-12 Ordnance has invested more than \$25,000 into his "system". The 34-year-old Marine began "DJing" in 1975 during his first tour in Iwakuni.

"I was learning how to spin records from the guy that was the Club System's DJ. One night he collapsed on the turntable and I took over the show," Bullion said.

That rather impromptu experience was the beginning of a second career that has lasted for ten years. In that decade, Bullion has played for many military and civilian clubs and done shows with such celebrities as James Brown and the band G.Q.

Although the monetary rewards for "DJing" have increased from the \$25 a night that Disco Bob received in 1975, much of the DJ's salary goes into purchasing audio and video equipment.

"Paco" Masiel of H&HS Crash Crew also owns a \$25,000 system that supports his six-year "hobby."

"I pay \$75 for one needle and it lasts only three months," Masiel said.

Masiel, a native of Los Angeles, has played records for several civilian clubs in the United States. Like



Disco Bob entertains an audience during a performance in the Tomodachi Club. Disco Bob is one of three DJs who entertain every club on Station.

Disco Bob, Paco started "DJing" by watching the DJ in a club where he worked as a bouncer. "I worked my way up from the bouncer to the DJ and I loved it," Masiel said.

Being a DJ in an overseas environment has its drawbacks, as both Bullion and Masiel know. When the two leathernecks check their mail, it's not only for letters from home, but also shipments of the latest disco music shipped to them from the States. Bullion and Masiel may agonize over late record shipments, but Timothy "T.C." Vreeland of

H&MS-12 Power Plants has more to worry about. As a DJ of Top 40, Rock, and Country/Western music, Vreeland also DJs for two Japanese clubs in addition to the Station club system.

"I try to play something for everyone," Vreeland stressed. The 28-year-old engine worker owns a basic system worth nearly \$4,000 and learned to DJ from a friend five years ago.

Having learned their craft from others, the three Marines now take time to teach and give experience to potential DJs. Bullion lets 16-year-old Marine dependent Alvin Smith use his equipment at M.C. Perry's High School dances. Masiel's sidekick is Sgt. "Angel" Lopez, of H&MS-12.

As entertainers for large groups of people, the three Marines share some fears and frustrations about their hobby.

"You have to be in tune with the crowd," said Masiel. "Anyone can be a human record player, but it takes a lot more to be a good DJ."

With more than 30-years total service in the Marine Corps, the three Marines don't always have the option of "kicking back." Although it's hard work, they can take great pride in knowing that their presence helps other Marines to relax and enjoy off-duty hours.

by RPSM Donna Branton



Change of Command



The III MAF Band performed traditional selections during the change of command ceremony. In addition, the band played personal favorites for Col. and Mrs. McCarthy in a special salute to them.

Traditional ceremony marks new C.O.'s arrival

by SSgt. Craig Biggio

A change of command is one of the most important and impressive ceremonies in the Marine Corps. The pomp and tradition of this ceremony represents the formal transfer of authority, responsibility and leadership from one Marine officer to another.

Five platoons of Marines and one of sailors stood in silent formation May 29, as Col. Jack B. Hammond became the 23rd Marine to command MCAS Iwakuni since January 1958.

McCarthy was presented the Legion of Merit by MGen. Charles H. Pitman, CG, 1st MAW, for his "exceptional meritorious conduct as the commanding officer of MCAS Iwakuni."

Under McCarthy's "inspirational and decisive leadership," the citation read in part, "the Air Station experienced a dramatic period of construction and facilities improvement...significantly improving the quality of life for all Marines, sail-

ors, civilians and their dependents."

Major General James L. Day, deputy commander, Marine Corps Bases Pacific (Forward), praised McCarthy's "total contribution to the overall mission and operation of Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni."

Major General Day also paid tribute to McCarthy's wife, Jennifer. "Her personal accomplishments within the Marine community are a source of great pride to all of us. Your personal encouragement and support throughout your husband's illustrious career is regarded as a fitting tribute to all our military wives."

Due to inclement weather, the ceremony took place indoors, but the rhythmic rumble of rain and wind couldn't dampen the spirits of those involved.

"The sun has never shown brighter," Hammond commented after assuming command. "This is truly a humbling experience for me to try to tell you all the thoughts go-

ing through my mind at this moment ... of my life."

Hammond's first comments as C.O. were directed to the Station Japanese employees. "You are the heart and soul of this base. You were here before me and you will be here long after I'm gone ... You are irreplaceable."

The colonel also pledged to work with the various Japanese military and civil authorities.

"I will make every effort to continue the warm personal and professional relationship that our commands have enjoyed," Hammond said to Admiral Minoru Tanaka, commanding officer of Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force.

"To the mayor of Iwakuni, the Honorable Takeo Kawakami, and each and every citizen of the beautiful city of Iwakuni, I pledge to be the best neighbor I can possibly be."

The new commanding officer addressed some personal remarks



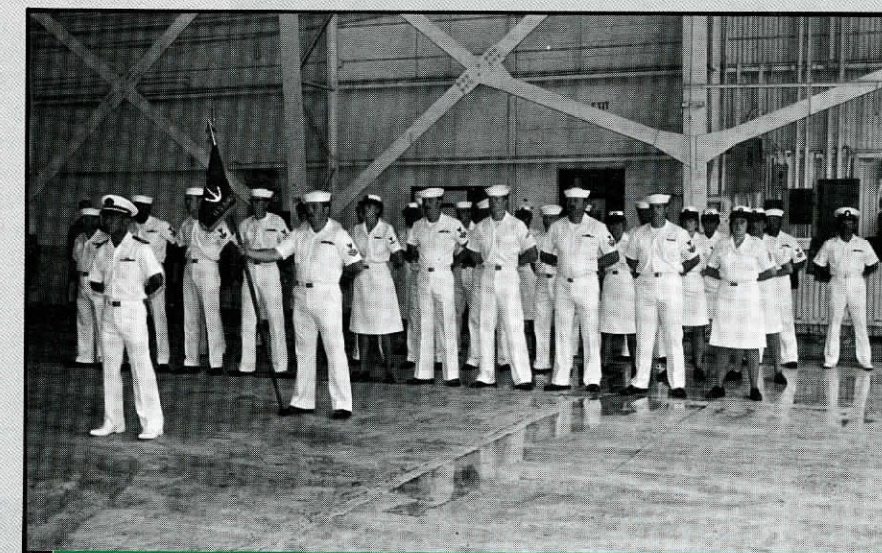
Col. D.J. McCarthy addresses the audience before relinquishing command of MCAS Iwakuni.



Dee Hammond, wife of Col. Jack B. Hammond, watches the ceremony before her husband assumes command of the Station.



Colonels Jack B. Hammond and, D.J. McCarthy and LtCol. Larry Hutson, Station executive officer, troop the line during the ceremony.



A platoon of sailors stands at parade rest. There were five platoons of Marines in addition to the Navy members.

the commanders of MAG-12 and MAG-15, Colonels P.D. Williams and Charles Geiger. "I promise you the very best support I can possibly provide. I will never forget for a moment that this is the reason I'm here. I look forward to spending some very rewarding and fun days with you."

Hammond promised his "unwavering loyalty" to the Marines,

sailors and civilians of the command. "I want to make this Air Station the finest place in our Marine Corps to work and to live. I should probably say that my goal is to keep it the finest in our Corps."

"There is an old adage in our Marine Corps," Hammond said, addressing his wife, Dee, "that says, 'We never promised you a

rose garden,' but, I think we got one this time."

The ceremony concluded with McCarthy huddling the troops around him, and personally thanking them for making his tenure as MCAS Iwakuni's commanding officer the most enjoyable of his career.

Iwakuni's combat service support Marines

by SSgt. Craig Biggio

Detachment "A", 3rd Force Service Support Group, may be officially designated as a "Mini-FSSG," but the tasks and missions the detachment tackles are anything but small. In fact, Det. "A" is the "little giant" of the Air Station, a sort of jack-off-all-trades, always striving for maximum performance.

The unit was established to provide combat service support to Fleet Marine Force units and certain sections of MCAS Iwakuni.

"We provide personnel, supplies and/or equipment in 16 of the 24 combat service support functions," said LtCol. Tom Hayden, commanding officer of the unit.

The 12 officers and 226 enlisted personnel of the detachment perform numerous logistic functions which include intermediate-level maintenance and repair, supply, and automated data processing. Additionally, six officers and 95 enlisted troops are augmented to the Air Station and serve in postal, exchange services, disbursing, air transport coordination, legal, and

transportation management.

Staff Sergeant Byron Lemar and the Marines in the Material Issue Point handle more than 1,150 different items. The supplies range from bin items like spark plugs, small enough to fit in the palm of a hand, to bulk items, like M-900 engines, where a forklift capable of lifting 6,000 lbs. comes in mighty handy.

"The detachment has a damn good crew," Lemar commented. "They work hard and everybody's on the ball."

The maintenance section performs third and fourth echelon maintenance on Station vehicles. "We average about two tactical vehicles a week," Sgt. Michael Bush explained. Such work might include repair or replacement of major items, such as engines and transmissions, according to Bush.

The section's repair work isn't limited to vehicles, however. Items as diverse as generators and typewriters also meet the tools of the Det. "A" mechanics.

Although supply and maintenance are Det. "A"'s largest components, by no means do they include all of the unit's contributions to the Station.

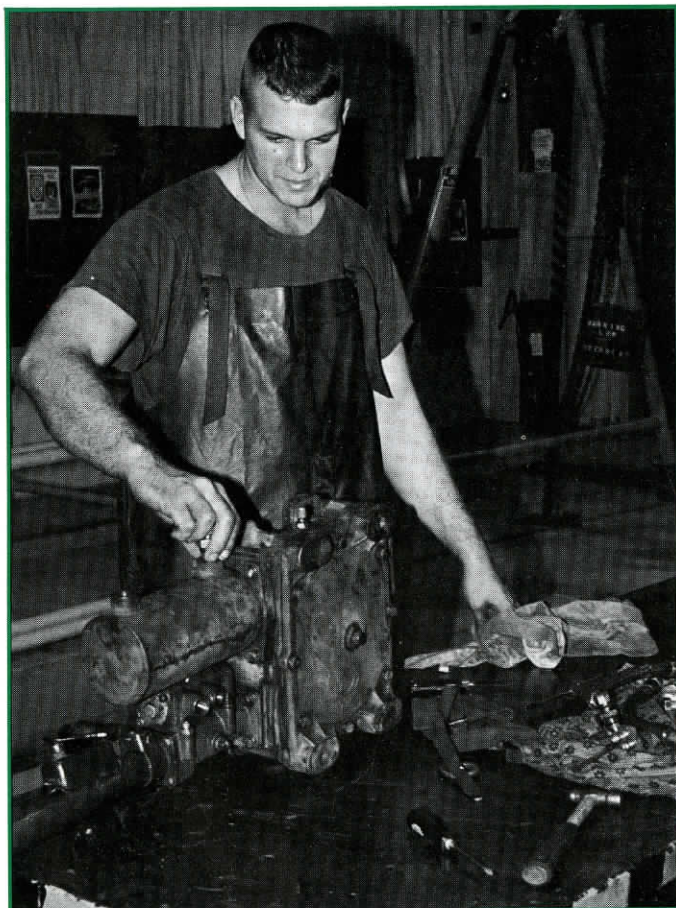
At the Remote Job Entry Site, two shifts of Marines keep the input/output data processing needs of the Station community flowing.

Det. "A" Marines also provide intermediate level maintenance on all Station weapons. "Before Det. "A" got here, a weapon that needed to be repaired had to go to Okinawa," said Cpl. Paul Jindrich.

Gear for the Emergency Action Platoon is also stored at the armory. This fully-trained, combat-ready infantry platoon was established to provide MCAS security backup in case of an emergency.

"We go to Camp Fuji for part of our combat skills training, rifle range, and grenade range," explained Sgt. Elisha Pittman, EAP squad leader. "On Station, we do 12-mile force marches."

Recent inspections have highlighted Det. "A"'s accomplishments and job performance.



Corporal Gregory Heusbourg cleans a transmission in Det. "A"'s maintenance section. Work at the section includes repair or replacement of major items, such as engines and transmissions.



A forklift capable of carrying a 6,000 lb. load, comes in handy as Cpl. Brian Prichett moves a load into the Det. "A" warehouse.

SSgt. Craig Biggio - photo

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