

Head chaplain visits Station

PICTURE BY LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

The 15th Chaplain of the Marine Corps and Deputy Chief of Chaplains for the Navy, Rear Adm. Robert F. Burt, visited the Station March 12.

A prayer luncheon, open to Marines, Sailors and civilians, was held to recognize the event.

Burt, who Cmdr. Donald Troast, Station command chaplain, called, "A passionate leader who makes hard decisions," shared significant pieces of his history, and spoke of his two love affairs; one with the Navy, and one with the Marine Corps.

"I love Marines," Burt said during the luncheon. "The privilege is mine to be here with so many great Marines who are serving our country."

Regarding his accomplishments, Burt said, "My favorite verse is Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' It reminds me that the Lord gives us the grace and the strength that we need, when we need it."

During the luncheon, the attendees who gathered were admonished,

see CHAPLAIN Page 4

'Angels' soar back to Iwakuni

LANCE CPL. RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 returned back to Iwakuni from Clark Air Base, Republic of Philippines, Saturday to wrap up the Hawaiian squadron's last exercise of their unit deployment program.

The Ugly Angels concluded their training for Exercise Balikatan 2004, the annual bilateral training exercise between American and Philippine armed forces, after one month. The squadron arrived to the Philippines Feb. 19.

The 120-plus Marines and Sailors from the squadron participated in the exercise with contributions from the pilots flying CH-53D helicopters, and support personnel to getting the aircrafts in the sky.

"It was a good experience and worthwhile deployment," said Cpl. Cesar Leal, HMH-362 flight line technician. "The squadron is known to take care of business, fast. The birds would go up and as soon as they would land, all the mechanics were there to make sure everything was good."

The squadron Marines said the high level of professionalism and mission accomplishment during the exercise is just an extension of how they have performed during the entire unit deployment program to Iwakuni.

"This is one of the most successful UDP that I have ever been a part of," said Lt. Col. Raymond F. L'Heureux, HMH-362 commanding officer. "I am very proud of this squadron."

Part of what makes the squadron victorious in every mission they execute is their work ethic, said L'Heureux. During their month-long deployment to the Philippines, the squad-



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 returned from Exercise Balikatan 2004 in the Republic of Philippines on Saturday.

ron worked seven days a week. The weather did not make the work any easier.

The days were divided into two shifts, day and night. But regardless of the shift, the work and the weather was the same: hard but rewarding, according to Leal.

It was not all work for the Ugly Angels. On March 1 the hardworking squadron took a day off to celebrate their successes in their deployments. Part of the celebration was a squadron run followed by a party, which included drinks, food and a live, local band.

"It was a much deserved party for the Angels," said Sgt. Karlton Petty, HMH-362 airframes technician.

The Ugly Angels are slated to return back to Hawaii in April.

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 Children from local school spend the day with VMFA-212, enjoy static displays and picnic lunch.

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IWAKUNI WEATHER

	Today Mostly Sunny High: 55
	Saturday Rain High: 56
	Sunday Partly Cloudy High: 60

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Station Girl Scouts support troops

PICTURE BY LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

Troops in Korea and Iraq will soon be receiving 600 boxes of Girl Scout cookies due to the efforts of Station Girl Scouts.

The six different Girl Scout troops on Station began work on the project after a suggestion by Jennifer Hopley, a troop leader.

Every year, Station Girl Scouts receive over 500 cases of cookies containing 12 boxes each, said Toni Koating, Station Girl Scout cookie manager. "It can be challenging to sell all of the boxes. In the States, girls can sell cookies to their families, but [in Iwakuni], the girls can't do that."

"Sitting at a table for six weeks gets tiring," she added.

Hopley suggested that the girls try to sell the cookies by a new method.

Nearly all of the 50 Girl Scouts on Station contacted family members and friends back in the States and asked them to buy a box or boxes to be sent to deployed troops, said Koating.

"The response was great," she added. "Five hundred-forty-five cases were sold."

Marines on Station were also helpful, Koating said. In addition to purchasing cookies, many young Marines took time to speak with the girls about their own sisters or friends who were involved in the Girl Scouts.

"I can't say thank-you enough to the Iwakuni community," said Koating.

During the course of the sales, the girls learned important lessons about money management, courtesy and teamwork, Koating said.

According to www.girlscouts.org, selling cookies is a "win-win activity." Girl Scouts practice life skills as custom-

ers get a great product and get to support girls in their own community. Additionally, all of the proceeds support Girl Scouting in the local community.

"These activities are directly related to our purpose of helping all girls realize their full potential and become strong, confident and resourceful citizens," the Web site states.

The Girl Scouts were founded in 1912 in Savannah, Ga., by Juliette Gordon Low. Low wanted to create, "something for all the girls," of the United States.

Although the original troop began with only 18 girls, the Girl Scouts were soon holding national conventions and expanding their troops to meet the diverse needs of the nation.

Today, through efforts such as the Station cookie sale, the Girl Scouts continue to teach young girls the importance of patriotism, service and teamwork.



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The *Torii Teller* welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions can be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to bonidw@iwakuni.usmc.mil or dillardcs@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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Pick up your butt, you butt

MASTER GUNNERY SGT. CONSTANCE DILLARD

Letter to the Editor

This weekend I had community service with my daughter. Saturday morning a group of us did a police call around Building one, the Provost Marshal's Office, all the bus stops on the Station and the roads in between. The number one thing we picked up were cigarette butts. Now, we're not talking just a handful, but literally hundreds of cigarette butts.

What I find funny about this is an organization called CigaretteLitter.org estimates several trillion cigarette butts are littered worldwide every year. They obviously meant tens of thousands of cigarette butts are found on Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni alone each year. In fact, they said the most littered item in America is cigarette butts. That holds true for Iwakuni also.

I used to smoke. As a matter of fact, I used to smoke three packs a day back in the '80s. Yes, that's 60 cigarettes a day and 60 cigarette butts to dispose of.

So why is it we have a cigarette butt problem on the Station? In designated smoking areas we find the most cigarette butts on the ground, not in the butt can. It seems some or even most of you just don't care about others. You toss your cigarette butt in the air as you exhale that last smoke filled breath. Aaahhh, that was so good I want to share it with the whole community.

Well, our whole community includes

not only you, our smoker, but other service members, spouses, civilian employees, children, animals and our delicate ecosystem.

Each year, thousands of children in America, below the age of 6-years-old, ingest some form of cigarette product to include cigarette butts, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. And guess what? The most common symptom reported in children is vomiting.

So you say dumb child. No, dumb you for mindlessly tossing your butts and littering where an exploring toddler or child can find them. Why would there be a child around such places as the bus stop, the commissary, exchange, or Crossroads? Why not? And why would they be able to grab a cigarette butt? Because children are curious, and they are quick with their hands and you left that cigarette butt there for their curious little hands and minds.

The right way does not include flicking it out the car window as you drive. Remember when you flick it someone still has to pick it. This includes birds who line their nests with cigarette butts because they picked up your litter.

It does not mean smoking when you leave the gym on your way back to the barracks and tossing the butt. Yes, we picked up at least five butts every six inches just along the old motor pool parking lot. Have you ever noticed how dry that grass gets during certain times of the year? Are you aware thousands of acres of timber and grass are acci-

dentally burned each year by a cigarette butt being tossed out carelessly.

It doesn't mean emptying your car ashtray in the parking lot because you are too lazy to dump the ashtray in a can. No one wants to drive or walk through your litter. Especially after they've washed and waxed their car and gotten ready for a night out. And it doesn't mean putting the cigarette out on the benches at the bus stop so the next person who sits down gets a soot mark on their pants from your butt.

But you're thinking, "What's the big deal?" The big deal is it is harmful to the environment, is against the law because you are littering and if everyone who smoked threw their butt on the ground we would be knee deep in butts. Are you aware cigarette butts can take up to 10 years to degrade? Most cigarette butts are not made from cotton but from cellulose acetate, a form of plastic.

I still smoke on occasion, mostly in the field or when I drink. And even then I still know to properly dispose of my butt, the club has nice designated smoking areas with ashtrays/butt cans. Even in the field with a canteen cup of coffee, I still field strip my butts. Last time I looked, Ricky Raccoon didn't like the taste of old cigarette butts, nor did the filters blend in with the foliage.

All it takes is a little courtesy and common sense. I don't mind doing a police call, but I do mind picking up your butts because you lack the social courtesy and the self-discipline to properly dispose of your cigarette butts.

Packing lists help on family voyages

STATION RED CROSS

Letter to the Editor

March is Red Cross Month, a month when many families prepare to hit the roads for spring break. Make sure you and your loved ones are prepared for anything before you hit the road.

Update your family communication plan: Make sure everyone in your family has an updated list of telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of essential contacts for each traveler. Additionally, each person should have a way to make long-distance telephone calls without using a cell phone. (In disasters, cell phones get overloaded and may not work. Having a calling card with toll-free access over "landlines" may be the only way you can contact family members if you are separated when disaster strikes.)

Determine what disasters occur in your vacation destinations: First, talk with your family about the disasters that can happen in the area you're visiting. Learn the names of the prefectures you will be visiting because severe weather warnings are sometimes given by prefecture name. Calmly explain the potential dangers, and plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

Establish an out-of-town friend to be your "family contact": After a disaster, it's often easier to call long-distance over landlines. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number and e-mail address if applicable.

Proper Identification: Make sure to have photo identification for each member of the household, including children. Bring passports if traveling outside the U.S., even if a passport is not required in some countries. If a disaster happens at your home while you are away, you may need to have a photo ID to be able to be admitted to your neighborhood upon return.

Driving to your destination? Pack essential emergency supplies: Battery powered radio and extra batteries; flashlight and extra batteries; blanket; jumper cables; fire extinguisher (5 pounds, A-B-C type); first aid kit and manual; bottled water and nonperishable high energy foods, such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter; maps; shovel; tire repair kit and pump; tools such as pliers and a small hammer; and flares.

Flying to your destination? Pack essential emergency supplies: Flares aren't permitted or needed on an airplane, but you should take essential supplies to have with you when you get to your destination, like a flashlight for each member of your family with extra batteries; a battery-powered radio; a small first aid kit; essential medications, including copies of prescriptions (in case they need to be filled locally).

Protect your family from the weather with travel essentials: Even if you're traveling to not-so-warm climates bring sunscreen; sunglasses; a hat, one pair of long pants and a long sleeved shirt for each person in your family; travel games for entertainment.

Annual road taxes due soon

COMPILED BY
TORII TELLER STAFF

Station residents with vehicles have to make payments for Japanese road tax,

in yen, at Iwakuni City Hall on the fourth floor.

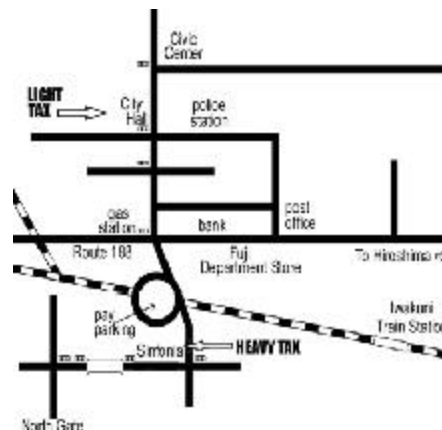
Residents with heavy vehicles can make payments at the government office building adjacent to Sinfonia Iwakuni, on the first floor.

All personnel with privately-owned vehicles are required to pay Japanese road taxes during the month of April each year for the use of roads in Japan.

After taxes are paid, personnel can report to the Pass and Registration Office at Provost Marshal's Office, 8 a.m.

to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday to have the 2004 Station decal affixed to their vehicles.

For more information and maps, call the Pass and Registration Office at 253-3161.



Annual Road Tax Prices

① 山口 ② 55
Y33-88

① Indicates prefecture of the automobile registration
② Indicates the amount of road tax you must pay

Heavy:	11E.11Y series	¥32,000
	33E. 300 series (4,400cc and over)	¥22,000
	33Y. 300 series (4,500cc and below)	¥19,000
	44E. 44Y series	¥7,500
	55E. 55Y. 500Y series	¥7,500
Light:	Yamaguchi 50,40 series	¥3,000
	Yama A series (400cc and over)	¥1,000
	Yama B series (400cc and below)	¥1,000
	Iwakuni A.B.C series	¥500

T-Bolts return to Iwakuni, leave for Korea

LANCE Cpl. C. ALEX HERRON
Combat Correspondent

The Thunderbolts of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 returned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, March 7, after the conclusion of Exercise Cope Tiger in Korat, Thailand.

The closing ceremonies for Cope Tiger took place Feb. 27 with the host nation of Thailand along with Singapore and the United States. Marines from the Station and Airmen from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, represented the United States.

"The ceremony was a fitting end to a successful detachment," said Lt. Col. Thomas "T.C." Clark, VMFA-251 commanding officer. "Cope Tiger was very good for morale and the squadron as a whole. For the past two to three years, we have been going through challenging combat-oriented deployments. From the boat to Kuwait, we have first term Marines who have done nothing but combat deployments."

Many of the Marines enjoyed their time in another country and experiencing different cultures, said Lance Cpl. Scott Adkins, VMFA-251 embarker. "We all had fun seeing the sights and doing things we would not normally do while in the states," Adkins said. "It was nice to get out of the cold weather of Iwakuni and into a more tropical climate."

Along with the off-duty experiences, the Marines were also able to work with the other countries to see how they train.

"I liked the way the Thai's trained," said Capt. Joe Yoskovich, VMFA-251 powerline officer. "The Singaporeans liked to concentrate on the things they did well, while the Thai's were more interested in get-



Lance Cpl. C. Alex Herron

Marines and Airmen salute while members of the Royal Thai Air Force band play at the beginning of the Cope Tiger closing ceremony, Feb. 27

ting better at the things they hadn't quite mastered."

Upon their return to Japan, the T-Bolts did not waste any time continuing with their deployment schedule. Five days after their Iwakuni homecoming, the T-Bolts left for Yecheon, South Korea, for two weeks of training for Exercise Foal Eagle.

"The austere environment will be good training using the Marine Corps command and control structure," Clark said.

The T-Bolts will be going through a different style of training while in Korea, besides the major differences in climate and day-to-day life, the flying will also be different, according to Clark.

"Thailand was very warm and Korea will be very cold," Clark said. "Other than the daily operations, we will be working on air-to-surface training as opposed to Thailand, where we primarily worked on air-to-air scenarios."

NEWS BRIEFS

SEALED BID SALE

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office's next sealed bid sale will start Monday. Property on sale can and should be inspected at DRMO Monday through Wednesday. Inspect the property prior to bidding. Bid must be received no later than Thursday, 8 a.m. Call 253-3982 or 253-4089 for details.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN TRAINING

The training will be held at Building 411, Room 121. English classes are April 7, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and April 8, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Japanese classes are April 7, 9:45-10:45 a.m. and April 8, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Housekeeping staff, security guard, employees at waste water treatment, firemen, beauticians/hairdressers and supervisors for the above are recommended to attend. Contact the Occupational Health/Preventive Medicine Department at 253-3419 or e-mail Saori at fujisakas@nhyoko.med.navy.mil.

DISPOSE OF LOST AND FOUND

PMO will DRMO or dispose of lost and found items soon, and would like the public to come down to PMO, Room 107, 1st floor to claim any items they have lost. They may not have everyone's items, but they have a few. Bring some type of ID in order to obtain your property.

Vomit comet makes berth in Iwakuni

By PIC.L YDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

A sleek, gray, high-speed experimental vessel, the IX-532 Joint Venture (HSV-X1), pulled into Iwakuni Port for the first time Feb. 28.

The vessel, known affectionately as "the vomit comet" by first-time travelers, arrived to pick up 190 passengers and a cargo of aircraft support equipment, said Army Chief Warrant Officer Tim Turner, the Joint Venture's executive officer.

The Joint Venture is working in



Army Chief Warrant Officer Tim Turner, Joint Venture executive officer, points out the HSV's steering and navigational capabilities.

support of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force's Operation Foal Eagle, said Turner.

According to the Catamaran Company, the HSV, formerly a car and passenger ferry, was "adopted" by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Tampa based U.S. Special Operations Command.

Military officials believed that the HSV could improve upon conventional ships for missions such as mine warfare, special operations, homeland security, humanitarian evacuation and the shipment of troops and cargo.

According to www.globalsecurity.org, the Joint Venture underwent six weeks of technical and structural modifications for U.S. Army service in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Included in the modifications were a two-part, hydraulically operated vehicle ramp, and the installation of a helicopter pad.

The 326-foot ship can carry several hundred tons of cargo and up to 363 passengers, said Turner. Inner-



Photos by Lance Cpl. David Revere

The IX-532 Joint Venture rests in Iwakuni Port before transporting cargo and passengers in support of Operation Foal Eagle. The ship, formerly a car and passenger ferry, has been adopted by the military because of its speed and ability to transport large amounts of cargo.

theater operations have kept the Joint Venture busy hopping from port to port, he added.

The ship boasts a weight room, day room with movies and video games purchased by Army and Air Force Exchange Service, and galley that serves four meals throughout the day, said Turner. The all-male crew of 30 also enjoys a real sense of camaraderie, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Nelson Etrada.

Last year the crew was gone from

their homeport for over 200 days, Etrada said. And, although the year was sometimes hard on "newlyweds and guys with families," the men performed their duties well.

"I have a great crew," said Etrada. "They're motivated, disciplined. They know what they've gotta' do, and they do it."

According to the Web site, use of the HSV-X1 will result in a reduction of aircraft flights and will reduce the noise impact on surrounding communities.

Preteen program arrives here

By JAMIE WURDINGER
Marine Corps Community Services
Public Affairs Specialist

Marine Corps Community Services will bring new opportunities for recreation, growth, and leadership to fifth and sixth grade members of the community.

The Preteen Program at the Boys and Girls Club on Station will give the students a chance to participate in some of the events available to older children.

The program will be on a trial basis until July and will be led by volunteer fifth and sixth grade members of the Torch Club, who will plan activities for preteens to participate in at the Teen Center.

"We're going to plan parties, trips, and recreational activities," said Torch Club President Jamila Bryan, who is in the sixth grade. "We hope there will be

a lot of people this year."

According to Han, "The Torch Club will be self-directed and governed by preteens, who will decide what events they want for their age group at the Teen Center and help to plan the events with the assistance of Teen Center supervisors. If all goes well and participation is high, we will offer the Preteen Program throughout the summer and new 2004-2005 school year."

Preteens interested in joining the Torch Club will meet April 2, 3-4 p.m. at the Teen Center.

The Teen Center is open to teens on school days from 2:30 - 5 p.m., school early out days from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and school out days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To join the Torch Club, fifth and sixth graders may call 253-5549 or 253-4803. For a schedule of events, go to <http://www.mccsiwakuni.com>.

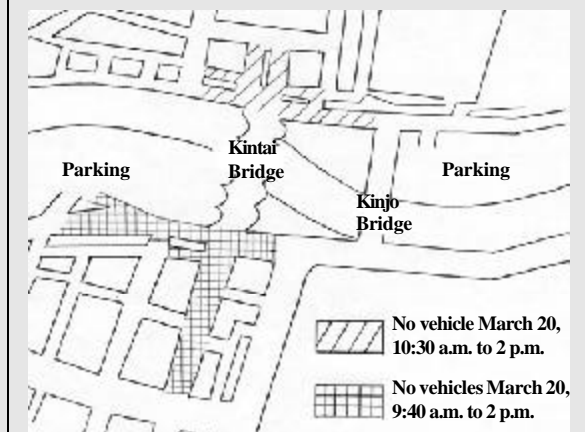
Kintai Bridge Dream Fiesta '04

COMPILED BY
Torii Teller Staff

The Kintai Bridge will be celebrating the completion of renovation work March 19-21. Come and join the party as a variety of events are scheduled to mark the occasion. Parking will be limited, so patrons are asked to travel by other means. Enjoy the festivities!

- Commemorative tree planting	9-9:30 a.m.	20th
- Kintai Bridge light up	6:30-9 p.m.	19th-21st
- Street performances	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	20th-21st
- Musket performances	10:50 a.m.	20th
- Iwakuni Drum performance	10:40 a.m.	20th
- Joint concert	6-7:30 p.m.	21st

Below is a map for Parking



CHAPLAIN from Page 1

"Never give up, and never give in." Burt quoted Matthew 19:26, "With God, all things are possible."

Col. David T. Darrah, Station commanding officer, presented Burt with a Station baseball cap, a Station coin, and a framed picture of the air Station.

Burt, in turn, presented Darrah a framed certificate of appreciation from the Station chapel staff.

"Thank you for having me here," Burt said.

According to www.hqmc.usmc.mil, Burt has completed six deployments to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, North Arabian Gulf and served in the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, since receiving his commission as a lieutenant, junior grade in the Navy Chaplain Corps in 1981.

Burt reported to Headquarters Marine Corps as the 15th Chaplain of the Marine Corps on Sept. 29, 2003.

Japanese Forces contribute to safety

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE Cpl. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

For years, Fleet Air Wing 31's Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force air traffic controllers have conducted on-the-job training here in order to maintain and brush up on the skills required by an air traffic controller, as well as to learn the Federal Aviation Administration air traffic control methods.

"They conduct the same training we do here in our air traffic control facility," said Capt. Joseph Turkal, the Station's ATC officer.

Air traffic control consists of two environments: radar and tower. The radar environment controls traffic farther out by reading the electronic signals the aircraft emit. Personnel in the tower environment visually monitor the aircraft and prepare landing sequences for safe separation.

Safety is always a top priority while carrying out the mission of being an air traffic controller since the job involves keeping aircraft in the air from colliding with each other as well as guiding them into a safe landing.

"Their on-the-job training here will further develop mutual understanding between the Marines and JMSDF, as well as the aviation safety of JMSDF pilots here," said Turkal, referring to the JMSDF ATC personnel's ability to assist Japanese pilots in times of language difficulty.

Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force ATC personnel arrive on the Station with a basic understanding of English, which is the international language of ATC personnel.

"They usually come in here with a

good grasp of English," said Turkal. "They just have to refine it."

With JMSDF tours of duty as long as six years, there is plenty of opportunity for refinement.

Ensuring safety is not the only benefit of the relationship between the Marine air traffic controllers and their JMSDF counterparts that has developed over the years.

Turkal said that the cultural experience from day-in day-out interaction is great, and that the common bond of military life was what particularly brought the services together.

"The exchange in culture is one thing, but the exchange in the militaries and how they work is something they can't get anywhere else," Turkal said. "You really get to understand the difference between the U.S. and a foreign military."

According to Petty Officer 2nd Class Osamu Fujitani, a member of the JMSDF ATC training here, the relationship he has built is something special and unique.

"Sometimes it is stressful because my English is limited," said Osamu.



Gunnery Sgt. Brian Schafer, Station Operations radar and air traffic controller, tracks radar readings with Petty Officer 2nd Class Osamu Fujitani, a Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force air traffic control officer, as he conducts on-the-job training.

"But I enjoy the cultural interaction between the Americans and JMSDF."

Osamu said one result of his daily interaction has been less stress on the job.

"The Marines are not as serious as the Japanese," said Osamu. "They are optimistic all the time."



Gunnery Sgt. Brian Schafer, Station Operations radar and air traffic controller, coordinates air traffic while monitoring radar signals.

American Red Cross 'prepares' for future

By GUNNERY SGT. M.A. ZEID
Combat Correspondent

"The goal is preparedness."

That is the theme for March 2004 as it celebrates Red Cross Month. For more than 60 years, the president of the United States has proclaimed March as Red Cross Month and a time to commemorate and support the organization and its services worldwide.

Since 1905, when the American Red Cross began, it has provided humanitarian assistance in emergencies and natural disasters. However, this month, they want to stress being prepared.

"The Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and cope with emergencies," explained Terri Oshiro, American Red Cross Station manager.

In a message issued from the Red Cross, president and CEO Marsha J. Evans stated, "Close to 60 percent of Americans are wholly unprepared for a disaster of any description. They don't have a family emergency plan, nor are they aware of school,

workplace and community procedures. They have not stocked emergency supplies, nor have they sought even basic first-aid and CPR training."

Oshiro pointed out that the Red Cross is out there providing free disaster assistance, but here the emphasis is on providing services and education.

"We sent more than one million messages last year," said Oshiro. She also pointed out, in times of emergency, the Red Cross messages provide a valuable tool for commanders by giving them reports from objective sources such as doctors and local officials. "We serve as a communication link between our people in uniform and their loved ones back home. It's a 24-hour service that we provide, seven days a week. We can verify the situation, which is important when asking for emergency leave and for peace of mind."

"We encourage service members to let their loved ones and family know that they should contact the local Red Cross when an emergency arises and have identifying information ready,"

continued Oshiro. "Also, the Red Cross is able to locate service members and let their families know the health and welfare of service members when normal communication links are disrupted."

Oshiro went on to explain about the various programs locally that help people here prepare for troubled times. They provide first aid and CPR classes, baby-sitting training and manage a summer youth program to give teenagers the chance to gain meaningful job skills and experience while working with organizations on Station. They also provide comfort kits (package of toilet items such as shaving cream, razors and soap) for those who are stranded here waiting for flights.

To commemorate this month, the Red Cross office here held the Sophie's Chinese Antiques and Furniture Sale on March 5 and 6 at the Matthew C. Perry High School cafeteria.

While March is Red Cross Month, it's nice to know they will always be there for those who need them.



Each student gets a chance to sit in the cockpit of a F/A-18 during their visit to VMFA-212 March 12.



Cpl. Oscar Alvaradoreyes, VMFA-212 seat shop mechanic, places a Lancer helmet on one of the many eager children who wanted to try on the unit's flight gear.



Japanese and American school children finish their field trip here with a round or two on the jungle gym.



Children from the Kawashimo Yochien make their way in front of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212's hanger, before the start of their special show and tell session.



Lt. Col. James B. Bright, VMFA-212 commanding officer receives flowers from children at the Kawashimo Yochien, to show their gratitude for the invitation to the Station.



A Japanese teacher at the Kawashimo Yochien entertains her students as they watch her don gear the fighter pilots wear.



The last stop for the school children is Penny Lake, where everyone sits in the grass for lunch.



Maj. Jay Erwin, VMFA-212 director of safety and standardization, and Japanese students enjoy the picnic lunch March 12.

Lancers host kids, build future friendships

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. DAVE BONI
Press Chief

Children from the Kawashimo Yochien (kindergarten school) had an interesting show and tell session March 12.

Instead of the normal collection of special rocks and rare comic books, the children all shared in the treasures Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 had to offer.

The kids, ages 3 to 6-years-old, spent the day touring the Lancer's hanger and surrounding flight line, which houses their chariot; the F/A-

18. While some of the Japanese children looked at the massive aircraft incredulously, some of the American children in the classes were more excited to see their parents.

"Some of the Marines in '212 have children that go to the school, including myself," said Lt. Col. James B. Bright, VMFA-212 commanding officer. "The teachers wanted to know if I would be interested in hosting my daughter's class on a field trip, but then we decided to have the whole school come."

About 80 kids came here to get the chance to sit inside the cockpit, watch their teacher don survival gear worn

by pilots and giggle for the camera in numerous photo opportunities.

"This is more like it," replied Cpl. Oscar Alvaradoreyes, VMFA-212 seat shop mechanic, as he puts a helmet on one of the students. "Some Japanese people see us in such a negative light sometimes, it's nice to make new friends."

Once the static displays and photos were over, the Lancers and their new pals made their way over for a picnic lunch, and much-needed playtime.

The day proved to be a success as the kid's excitement over the aircraft spilled over to the jungle gym.

"The whole experience was wonderful," said Yoshiko Yoshida, Kawashimo Yochien teacher. "The children loved the airplanes and it was exciting for all of us to see what some of the children's parents do for work. It was great to see the children be so proud of their parents. Even for the teachers it was exciting because we always see the planes in the air, but never this close before."

According to Bright, the Lancers were happy to have them. "We had a lot of fun, and if this fosters better relations than even better, but this was for the kids. It was their show and tell time. We welcome them back any time."



Children slap hands with a Lancer during their walk through the hanger March 12.

Marines aid, bring smiles to Philippine elders

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CL. RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

CLARK AIR BASE, Republic of Philippines — Marines and Sailors paid a visit to the Bahay Pag-ibig, house of prayer, in Angeles City Feb. 27 hoping to bring love and smiles to the residents.

Translated to English from the Philippine language of Tagalog, Bahay Pag-ibig means "house of love." And that's exactly what the center is: a house of love for less privileged elders.

To put it bluntly, "It is a home for the poor, abandoned, sick, aged and dying destitute.

"It is an association whose objective is the sanctification of the individual, whether a resident or volunteer or friend who keeps Bahay Pag-ibig going," said the Rev. Fr. Edgar L. Panlilio, the center's apostolate director.

"It is an institution that serves Christ by caring for the poorest of the poor, the abandoned and unwanted, seeing Christ in the person of these forsaken people. It glorifies God by serving the poor with esteem and respect. It is a home for the poorest of the poor, materially, physically, spiritually or socially," added Panlilio.

The inhabitants of the "house of love" are men and women over the age of 60 years old. The center houses 59 people who lack financial support from their families.

"They cannot support themselves nor have relatives that can provide for their well-being. But here at the center we try our hardest to give them a home and family atmosphere," Panlilio said.



Sgt. Marben P. Aquino, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 career retention specialist, feeds Encarnacion Pineda.



Lina Yalung sings to Cpl. Matthew P. Michael, HMH-362 central technical publication librarian, an old folk song from the Philippines titled "Maala-Ala Mo Kaya," which means "Do You Still Remember?"



A garden in the center of the Bahay Pag-ibig home, is dedicated "To our Lady of the Poor, the Queen and Mother of Anawims." A statue of her stands in the garden.

nurses, nannies, normal but benevolent people. According to Panlilio, "The center's workers give wholehearted free service; they receive neither dues nor fees for the work they render."

The work that the center does is purely inspired and influenced by the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Out of the goodness of their hearts, several Marines and Sailors volunteered to travel off base from Clark Air Base into the poverty-stricken streets of Angeles City, and spend time with the elders.

As soon as they arrived to the "house of love," they were greeted with songs and tears filled with delight.

Seventy-year-old Candy DeLara, a resident of the home, spent most of her life with Americans as a translator and nanny for a United States military family.

"It brings me to tears to see Americans because they make me feel so happy," said DeLara. "I still remember the name of my first employer, Col. Robert Van Wager. I was a nanny for his children and with that family I traveled to different parts of the world. I will never forget them. They were so good to me,"

Oscar Toribio, 66, a 1960s Philippine pop singer, rolled on his wheelchair to a microphone and speaker and began to sing Elvis Presley songs to the guest. The residents, familiar with Toribio's talent, cheered as he proved that he could still carry a tune. "Thank you very much," he said with a smile.

When lunch time came, the Marines volunteered to feed those who could not feed themselves. "I only wish I could do more," said Lance Cpl. Celisa M. Reyes, Marine Helicopter Light Attack Squadron 369 avionics technician.

"We cannot explain love: we have to experience it," said Panlilio. "The elders have been and are still a part of society."

The staff for the center work out of their predilection for no wages. The volunteers are doctors,

OUT THE GATE

Note: Japanese who do not speak English may answer the phone numbers provided.

Yanai Flea Market

A flea market will be held at Yanai City Hall 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. In case of heavy rain, the market will be cancelled. Call 0820-26-6666 for more information.

Japanese Drum Spring Concert

There will a Japanese drum concert by Kuga Drum Preserve Team

March 27, 6:30 p.m. at Kuga-cho Kodomonoyakata Hall, in front of Kuga Town Hall. The admission is free. Call 82-5446 for more information.

Miyajima Hina Doll Tour

Ancient Hina dolls will be displayed at a museum, temple and three residents on Miyajima Island Thursday through April 3. A "passport", admission ticket, sold at these buildings and Miyajima Ferry terminal, is required to view the dolls. There will be an English speaking personnel at the information desk at the terminal. They will

also display more Hina Dolls at places other than the above buildings, putting up pink flags outside as signs, on the island where tourists can visit without obtaining passports. Call 0829-44-2011 for details.

Otake Sunday Market

A market, selling fresh vegetables, fish, bamboo charcoal and more, and a flea market are scheduled March 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harumi Daiichi Park, next to You Me Town Otake. They will not be cancelled in case of rain. Call 53-7175 for details.

TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

To submit your ads or announcements: *Torii Teller* accepts ads/announcements from nonprofit organizations and groups only. Briefs run on space-available and time-

priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Thursday. *Torii Teller* reserves the right to edit to fit space. Stop by Building 1, Room 216 to fill out a form.

AUTOMOBILES

Nissan Wingroad, 1998, station wagon, JCI until March 2006, \$2,000. Call Phillip Grant at 253-3510 dwh or 090-1681-0866.

Suzuki Bandit 1200, 1997, station wagon, JCI until March 2006, \$1,800. Call Phillip Grant at 253-3510 dwh or 090-1681-0866.

Isuzu Suv, 1993, 3 door, 2,800cc diesel turbo 26 MPG (AVG), automatic transmission, new tires/brakes/battery, Kenwood stereo amp, tape, 6 CD changer, PIAA hi/lo beam fog lamps, JCI until March 2005, \$2,500 obo. Call Jim at 253-3705 dwh or 0834-88-2551 awh.

Toyota Pickup, 1987, runs great, JCI until April 2004, \$300. Call 253-6058 dwh or 45-1660 awh.

Nissan Praire, 1996, clean, awd wagon, excellent shape, no JCI, free. Call John Kinley at 253-3525 dwh or 31-8435 awh.

Mitsubishi Emerald, 1993, 4-door-sedan, JCI until June 2004, \$1,500 obo. Call Kris Gerber at 253-3989 dwh or 253-2030 awh.

Mitsubishi Mirage, 1989, 2 door, hatchback, JCI until Oct. 2004, \$600 obo. Call Kris Gerber at 253-3989 dwh or 253-2030 awh.

Nissan Skyline GT, 1994, 2 door, highly reliable,

good condition, new JVC AM/FM/CD player new front/back speakers, auto transmission, cold A/C, auto climate control, a inline V-engine, well maintained, power everything, good tires, must sell, JCI Dec. 2005, \$3,550 obo. Call Chad Boblett at 253-6101 dwh or 253-7240 awh or 090-4109-6830.

Honda Civic, 1995, 4-door-sedan, black, A/C, P/W, CD player, JCI until Feb. 2005, \$1,700 obo. Call 253-5260.

Mazda MPV, 1993, excellent condition, highly reliable, cold A/C, auto transmission, P/S, P/L, auto climate control front and rear, P/W, tinted window, AM/FM cassette

player, 3 L gas V-6 engine, green and gold trim, very neat inside and out, JCI until Aug. 2004, \$1,950. Call 253-2650.

Suzuki GSF 1200 Bandit, 1997, silver, 1,200cc, in-line 4 cylinder DOHC engine, 100 BHP, \$1,800. Call Phillip Grant at 253-3510 dwh or 090-1681-0866.

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., GT steel belted radials 145 SR 10, \$15; skid guard repairs 145 R12, \$15; Japanese kimono doll with cases, kokeshi dolls, flower vases, helmets, masks, nicknacks and many more. Call A.S. Ramos at 253-4108 dwh or 253-2022 awh or 090-7595-9324.

Misc., Sanyo 5 kg washing machine, \$150; Daimichi kerosene heater, \$50; kerosene heater, \$10. Call Alvin Arita at 253-4784 dwh or 253-2919 awh.

Misc., A/C units, 10x10 shed, two 24" girls mountain bikes barely used, one 26" mountain bike, master bedroom set. Call SSgt. Lynch at 253-3315 dwh or 253-2890 awh.

WANTED

Need to purchase two crib/toddler size mattress. Call 253-2081.

JOB OPENINGS

Torii Tunes
Help wanted at Torii Tunes. Apply at MCX Sound Shop. Full and part time positions available.

CHRO (253-6828)

Clinic:
-Social Worker
BPO:
-Management and Pro-

gram Analysis Officer
-Management and Program Analysis
-Management and Program Analysis
BPO:
-Supervisory Human Resources Specialist

MCCS (253-3030)
(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)
MCCS Job Listing:
-Head of Retail
-Retail Area Supervisor, civilian only
-Basic Replenishment Clerk, civilian only
-Leisure Travel Assistant, civilian only
-Club Operations Assistant, civilian only
-Assistant Club Manager
-Recreation Specialist, civilian only
-Recreation Attendant, civilian only
-Operations Assistant, civilian only
-Recreation Assistant, civilian only
Go to <http://www.mccs iwakuni.com> for a complete job listing.

SAKURA THEATER



MY BABY'S DADDY

This comedy tells the story of three young men forced to take responsibility for their children when their girlfriends all get pregnant at about the same time (90 minutes).



BIG FISH

Edward Bloom has always been a teller of tall-tales about his oversized life as a young man, when his wanderlust led him on an unlikely journey from a small-town in Alabama, around the world, and back again. His mythic exploits dart from the delightful to the delirious as he weaves epic tales about giants, a witch and conjoined-twin lounge singers. With his larger-than-life stories, Bloom charms almost everyone he encounters except for his son (125 minutes).



COLD MOUNTAIN

Based on Charles Frazier's bestselling Civil War novel, Cold Mountain tells the story of Inman, a wounded confederate soldier who is on a perilous journey home to his mountain community, hoping to reunite with his prewar sweetheart. In his absence, Ada struggles to survive, and revive her father's farm with the help of intrepid young drifter Ruby (155 minutes).

FRIDAY

7 p.m. MyBaby'sDaddy (PG-13)
10 p.m. The Butterfly Effect (R)

SATURDAY

1 p.m. PeterPan (PG)
4 p.m. Big Fish (PG-13)
7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R)
10 p.m. The Butterfly Effect (R)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. Along Came Polly (PG-13)
7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R)

MONDAY

7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Torque (PG-13)

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. 50FirstDates (PG-13)

THURSDAY

7 p.m. MyBaby'sDaddy (PG-13)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule
Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST
Monday - EDPT, DLAB
Wednesday - DLPT
Thursday - AFCT
April 7 - ACT
April 8 - SAT
 For more information, call 253-3855.

CHRO

CHRO Training
 ■ **Preventing Workplace Conflict and Adverse Actions:** Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 ■ **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** Thursday to March 26, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information and nomination, call 253-6828 or send e-mail to shiomuram.jp@iwakuni.usmc.mil. Classes will be held at Building one, Room 102, CHRO training room.

MCCS

CRMC Classes (253-6439)
 ■ **Quarterly Military Preretirement Seminar:** Monday through March 26, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
IT&T (253-4377)
 ■ **Space World:** April 10. The park features 29 attractions for adults and small children.

Club Iwakuni (253-3119)
 ■ **Chef's Seafood Classics:** Every Friday, 5-9 p.m. in all dining rooms. A children menu is also available.
 ■ **Le Vieux Carre Festival:** Saturday. Adults enjoy Bourbon Street in the ballroom, a Courtyard Restaurant on the veranda, Pat O'Brien's in the Eagle's Nest bar, Blues & Jazz Club in the Eagle's Nest party room, and a dance party at the Landing Zone bar. Simultaneous Le Vieux Carre parties for children will be held at Teen and Youth Centers. The Child De-

velopment Center will also be open 6-10 p.m. for those with reservations.

MCX (253-5641)
 ■ **Home & Electronics Sale:** Now through Sunday. Receive discounts on Whirlpool appliances, JVC and Sony electronics, grills and more.

Single Marine Program (253-4656)
 ■ **Pool & Dominos Tournament,** Saturday, 6 p.m. Free sign-up for these single tournaments. Prizes for first, second and third place winners.
 ■ **Pool & Dominos Tournament:** March 20, 6 p.m. Free sign-up for these single tournaments.

Teen Center (253-6454)
 ■ **Passport to Manhood:** Sunday, 3-5 p.m.
 ■ **Putt-putt Golf in Hachigamine Park:** March 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign-up before Wednesday. Games cost 500 yen each. Bring a bagged lunch and yen.
 ■ **Preteen Torch Club Meeting:** April 1, 3-4 p.m. Youths age 10 to 12-years-old plan activities for fifth and sixth graders at the Teen Center. Call 253-6454 for details.

Craft Fair & Flea Market

Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MAC Dome. Open to the Station residents and local Japanese residents. Yen and U.S. dollars are accepted.

Salute To Our Military Children Celebration
 March 27, 12 to 4 p.m. at the MAC Dome. Music, rides, games, free food for the first 300 people, and the 3rd annual Marine Corps Family Team Building Art Contest "Drawing on the Strengths of the Military Family" Awards Ceremony.

Grocery Shopping Tour
 Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. Call 253-6165 for more information.

PCS With Success Workshop
 March 26, 1-4 p.m. Call 253-3311 for details.

Clogging Dance Classes
 Classes are now every Monday, 7:15-8:15 p.m. in IronWorks Gym Aerobics Room, and cost only \$5. This American folk dance similar to tap dancing helps individuals to improve coordination and grace, develop flexibility, lower blood pressure, increase endurance, strength and lung capacity, relieve stress and lose weight. Call 253-3696 for details.

Iwakuni Toastmasters
 Toastmasters (TM) International provides an excellent opportunity to learn and practice proper public speaking and invaluable leadership skills. The TM experience also looks very good on your resume. The class meets every 2nd Thursday evening and 4th Friday at lunch. Japanese with intermediate or better English skills are welcome. Call Nancy Regan at 253-4557 or Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.

COMMUNITY

University Of Maryland
 Term IV registration is through March 26. Term dates are March 29 through May 22. Course of-

fering include Marketing, Life in the Oceans, Human Biology and more. Students must take the placement exams prior to enrolling in Math or English. Call 253-3494 for additional information.

Crime Stoppers
 If you have any information pertaining to a crime please call "Crime Stoppers" at 253-3333. Crime Stoppers is an answering service designed for anonymous callers to give information that would assist the Provost Marshal's Office in solving and preventing crime.

Thrift Store
 The Thrift Store is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and the last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Building 1117, located next to the Chapel. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. Call 253-4721 for more information.

Local marathons test muscles, minds

Editors note: This is the final installment of a three-part series.

CHL. ROBERT W. WYNKOOP
Combat Correspondent

Legs meld into gelatin. Pains ravage bodies as each runner takes a stride. Hours pass, yet more roads lay still ahead.
 This endurance test seems excessive to many, but for the avid participants of marathons, it's a feeling not only endured but embraced.

Twenty-six point two miles is the distance a runner can expect to travel in a marathon in the United States. In Japan, marathon participants get to test their sights on another number. The race isn't any longer or shorter but courtesy of the country's use of the metric system, runners must travel 42 kilometers to finish the race.

One Iwakuni resident and IronWorks Gym recreation specialist has spent more than 10 years assisting Station residents with races of all types.

Tadamasa Uemura has made running a part of his life since he was a child. That could be why he's known around the Station simply as, "Turbo."

At 42 years young, Turbo has decades of marathon and overall running experience. He said finding out about races is not as difficult as it used to be. With the Internet, up-to-date information about local and larger marathons can be found with a quick search.

Most marathons are inexpensive he said, with the most expensive competition requiring 6,000 yen to participate. The Kintai Marathon held aboard the Station April 25, costs \$15.

Once a runner has decided to run a marathon, Turbo recommends

beginning a training regimen that increases distance weekly. Proper stretching daily will help prevent injuries during training and the marathon.

"You should practice running long distance at a very slow pace. Begin at five kilometers going really slow one week. Then try for 10 kilometers the next week. Once you step up to 20 kilometers, you should be able to finish a marathon," Turbo explained.

One week before race day, Turbo suggests loading up on carbohydrate-rich foods like rice and pasta and begin drinking water to ensure proper hydration.

Turbo said that a runner should not train 24 hours before the marathon.

"Going to your job is easy," he said. "You don't need to take off from work, but you should not train."

On the day of the race, Turbo said he usually tries to relax as

much as possible by watching a movie and also doing stretching exercises. Runners should also remember to dress appropriately for the weather and bring sunscreen. He also suggests runners apply petroleum jelly to their toes and chest to prevent bleeding and blisters.

Once the race begins, Turbo said completing the race should be the priority for all runners. The hardest

part of the race comes long after the race begins, he said.

"The main part is to exceed 30 kilometers. It's going to be tough ... body feels like it can't move, but you have to 'motivate' yourself," he exclaimed laughing at his use of the common Marine Corps term.

For those who aren't ready to take on the challenge of a marathon, being a race spectator is not only fun, but helpful to those actually competing.

"I like it when I hear people cheering. It's like their cheers push my back and help me keep going. In Japan, some races go from the city, where people are all around and cheering, to parts that no one is around. The spectators give you something to look forward to."

Turbo said that finishing a marathon is difficult to describe, but as he puts it, "just do it, like Nike!"



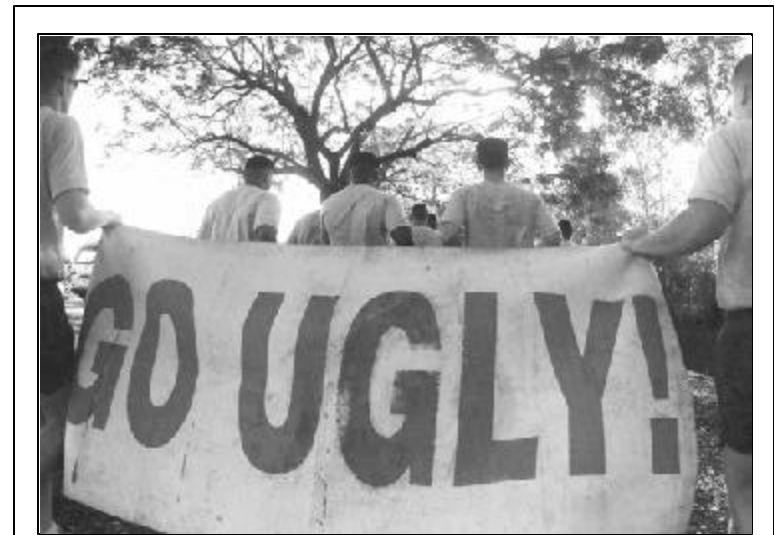
Official Torii Teller Photo

Toru Higashui, a 2003 Kintai Bridge Marathon runner runs through the finish line.



Official Torii Teller Photo

Runners zoom around the Station during the 2003 Kintai Bridge Marathon.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Ugly Angels Go Hard With Training

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 finds time from their deployment in Clark Air Base, Republic of Philippines, to have a squadron run. Led by Lt. Col Raymond L'Heureux, HMH-362 commanding officer, the Ugly Angels ran for over two miles throughout the Philippine air base. The squadron took part in Exercise Balikatan 2004.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Mass
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass
	10:45 a.m.	CCD

Protestant

Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Seventh Day Adventist (second and fourth)
Sunday	8 a.m.	Traditional
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	11 a.m.	Contemporary
	12:30 p.m.	Jesus Christ Apostolic Service
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Jesus Christ Apostolic Bible Study

Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Church of Christ
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Bible Study

Latter Day Saints

Sunday	1 p.m.	Priesthood/RS Meeting
	2 p.m.	Sunday School
	3 p.m.	Sacrament

Muslim

Friday	Noon	Prayer
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Jewish

Friday	6 p.m.	Shabbat
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For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/Chapel activity, call the Station Chapel at 253-5218.

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

PUBLIC POOL HOURS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

IronWorks Gym Indoor Pool will temporarily close today, 1-4 p.m. for the Madness Unit PT Challenge. Public hours resume at 4 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Call 253-4966 for details.

IRONWORKS GYM POWER OUTAGE

Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Weight Lifting Room and Sport Courts only will be available. Hot water will not be available. For more information, call 253-6035.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD TRACK & FIELD

April 10, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northside track, across the street from the Kids' Fest. Sign-up before April 3 at the Youth Sports Office in IronWorks Gym. Food and drinks will be provided. Children age 5 to 15-years-old compete for prizes in several events, including javelin and

discus throw, standing long jump, races and more. Call 253-3239 for details.

VARSIY SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

Saturday, 10 a.m. at the parade deck in front of Building one. For more information, call 253-5777.

FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, 1-5 p.m. All games are half price at the Bowling Center. Call 253-4657 for more information.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING

April 5-16, 5-9 p.m. at IronWorks Gym Indoor Pool. Station residents who are at least 15 years old receive basic training to become a lifeguard. The course costs \$40.

Seabees sting Fil-Am

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PIC. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

A white sphere, launched by calloused hands, rocketed back and forth over the net in the muted light of the Ironworks Gym Monday night, as two teams clashed in an effort to win the evening's intramural volleyball action.

Fil-Am was attempting to do what no other team has been able to do all season; beat the Seabees.

"We're playing to win," said Seabees' player Pat White.

"We beat [Fil-Am] the first time; and I'm just hoping they haven't picked up any new hotshot players since then," added Seabees' coach Richard Robinson.

Abraham Lagarde, Fil-Am team member, stated, "We're working really hard to win. We practice on the weekends, sometimes twice a week."

The teams battled it out in a best of three series. During game one, both teams exerted tremendous effort.

Fil-Am's Manny Garcia's talents were showcased as he drove balls over the net and prevented the Seabees from scoring several points. "He's a good spiker and a good blocker - probably one of our best players," said Lagarde.

The Seabees were not to be outdone, however. Four of their finest players, Chris Coggins, Pat White, Steven Dela Rosa and David Moore, were on the court. Robinson called these players, "The strength of this team."

At the end of the first game, the scoreboard read 25-18, in the Seabees' favor.

The second game brought continued intense competition.

"I'm pretty sure we'll win some more games," said Fil-Am's Lagarde.

However, a combination of powerful serves and spikes by White



Richard Robinson, Seabees' player and coach, sets up the ball.



Seabees' players pay close attention as the Fil-Am team challenges them with an intense volley.

and Dela Rosa, accurate spikes by Coggins and good all-around plays by Robinson, Moore and Adam Kushner, gave the Seabees the edge. Near the beginning of the game, they gained a lead, and kept it throughout, winning 25-15.

According to Robinson, the Seabees, who have survived the season undefeated, "play for the fun of it."

The team does not practice outside of the games they play.

"We've been fortunate so far to stay undefeated, but we haven't played the Marauders or CSSD yet!" said Robinson.

"We haven't blown anyone out during this season and it doesn't really matter except for placement in the playoffs. That's when everyone will have their "A" games going," he added.

Robinson, a self-proclaimed "coach only by title," organized the team. After getting the word out that he wanted to put together a Facilities Seabees' Volleyball team, 12 men responded. According to Robinson, the team members "gelled," very quickly, and began working together to form "a pretty good team."



Chris Coggins (red) and Manny Garcia (white) jump at the chance for some action.



Fil-Am puts up stiff resistance as the Seabees try to smack the ball back from where it came.