

Marine Corps seeks retirees

STAFFSGT. L.C. HOLLOWAY
Combat Correspondent

WASHINGTON (April 19, 2004) — The Marine Corps is looking for a few good retirees — about 150 to be exact.

The commandant of the Marine Corps recently authorized the expanded use of the retired Marine population to help fill the more than 2,500 existing Global War on Terrorism-related billets, according to Lt. Col. Linda McGowan, deputy section head, Mobilization, Plans and Policy branch, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Retirees with experience in the intelligence, communications, public affairs, civil affairs, linguistics, logistics and administration fields are among the prime targets, McGowan said.

While reserve Marines remain valuable assets to the Marine Corps, retirees typically have the higher levels of rank, security clearances and relevant experience required to fill many of the GWOT billets, said McGowan.

Activating retirees is also more cost effective. When a retiree is mobilized, his retirement benefits stop

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Smiles abound for Friendship Day '04

LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

More than 150,000 guests visited Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni for Friendship Day 2004 May 5.

This year's festival marked 31 years of camaraderie between the Station and Japan. The event afforded everyone in attendance the opportunity to enjoy displays of military aircraft, parachuting demonstrations, music and food.

Once the ribbon was cut at the main gate, sightseers were enthralled with parachute demonstrations by the Canadian SkyHawks and Misty Blues Parachute Demonstration Teams, who soared to the ground bearing the Japanese and American flags. The parachute teams also jumped later in the day and showed their perfect form by landing in their designated spot every time.

Throughout the day, flight demonstrations by the Deep Blues, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force US-1 squadron, AIRock, Pacific Air Force F-16s, Japanese Air Self Defense Force F-15s, F-4s and T-4s, and Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 Hornets, and EA-6B Prowlers rocked the skies.

"I had so much fun," said Yutaka Ito, a Kyoto resident. "The planes were so great to watch. I was also excited to see the Marines. I took many pictures of them."

Besides the aircraft and parachute demonstrations, the crowd could see what the planes looked like while not in motion by means of multiple static displays around the flight line's tarmac.

"I sat in the cockpit of the CH-53," said Ito. "The pilot was very friendly and showed me how to keep control."

Although the airshow was the main attraction, other sites around the Station provided eventgoers with different forms of entertainment.

Live concerts rang out from the edge of the flight line as



Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop

Lance Cpl. Martin Waltman, Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 ordnance technician, puts a temporary tattoo on the arm of 8-year-old Ryotaro Motohashi during Friendship Day 2004 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

well as at the amphitheater. Three Ultraman shows were held at the Sakura Theatre. Motorcycle and classic cars were displayed throughout the day.

By the day's end it was apparent the Station's guests were not the only ones impressed.

Lance Cpl. Joe Rutherford, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron firefighter, spent the day serving food and drinks at the Crash Fire Rescue barn.

"We had a lot of people," Rutherford said. "It was interesting trying to communicate. I think it was a positive experience - letting the Japanese come on the base and see what goes on here. A lot of people had smiles on their faces."




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IWAKUNI WEATHER

	Today Partly Cloudy High: 77
	Saturday Rain High: 73
	Sunday Showers High: 75

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Motorcycle safety important with weather change

LANCE CPL. GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

With summer quickly arriving, Station residents can begin to take layers off and enjoy the weather. The warmth also ushers in multiple activities that can be dangerous and at times unsafe without the proper precautionary steps.

Safety while involved in everyday activities, such as riding motorcycles, is very important for both loved ones and personnel aboard the Station.

"The beginning of March to the end of October is beautiful weather to ride," said Sgt. Stan Smith, Headquarters and Headquarter Squadron senior customs inspector.

According to Marine Corps Air Station Order P5560.8A, every person, Status of Forces Agreement status or not, riding on the Station will wear personal protective equipment. All active duty personnel in the Marine Corps operat-

ing a motorcycle off base will also wear the proper PPE.

"Long sleeves are required in order to ride," said Smith, motorcycle rider for the past 16 years. "A gortex can be worn while riding, but by the time you get to your destination your body is covered in sweat. What I did to overcome that was buy a blouse, cut off the sleeves and make it so I can easily put them on and take them off."

According to Sgt. Ryan Wilkinson, traffic accident investigator, "Some of the basic rules for PPE are long pants, a Department of Transportation approved helmet and some form of hard-soled shoes or leather material. Reflective vests during the night or bright clothing during the day can be worn instead."

Saving lives is one benefit of wearing the proper PPE. Another is avoiding confrontation with the military police.

"Riding motorcycles is a privilege to Station members," said Wilkinson. "The

rules are there and must be followed, no matter what the circumstances are. If you disagree, then don't ride, but we are just here to enforce the rules already in place."

The Station order also explains the proper manner of riding on motorcycles.

Passengers are only allowed to ride on motorcycles if the bike is made for two riders, said Wilkinson. Passengers riding on motorcycles must be at least four years old and weigh no less than 45 pounds.

"I don't take my daughter anywhere when I'm on my bike," said Smith. "She is too small. She will not be riding with me until she can reach the footrests and can wrap her arms around me. She is too young to understand safety policies and how to react in case of an emergency."

Wearing the proper safety gear is

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War hits close to home

MAJ. J. D. FOSTER
Provost Marshal

In a letter to all hands published before heading back to Iraq earlier this year, Maj. Gen. Mattis, the 1st Marine Division Commanding General, stated: "We are going back in to the brawl."

For the last year, the 82nd Airborne has been operating against the heart of the enemy's resistance. It's appropriate that we relieve them: When it's time to move a piano, Marines don't pick up the piano bench – we move the piano."

Since assuming their sector of responsibility in the volatile Sunni Triangle the Marines have been engaged in some of the most intense fighting in recent history. No matter what hardship the Marines have faced, they have been resilient in their resolve to get the job done and many have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms. One of these Marines was Lance Cpl. Jeffrey C. Burgess who was killed in action when the convoy he was protecting was ambushed near Fallujah, Iraq on March 25.

Lance Cpl. Burgess served the majority of his career in the Marine Corps here at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. He was

assigned as a military policeman with the Provost Marshal's Office responsible for protecting and serving the air station community. Lance Cpl. Burgess manned base gates, responded to calls for service, and served as a 911 center dispatcher in a highly dedicated manner throughout his tour. Approximately six months after he completed his one-year assignment here in Iwakuni, he found himself assigned to military police duty in Iraq and was part of the Marine team tasked to "move the piano."

Like many other Marines assigned to the hazardous duty of restoring order in the explosive Sunni Triangle, he stepped up to every challenge and demonstrated the type of unwavering courage we all hope to emulate during combat operations.

On March 25, Lance Cpl. Burgess was doing his basic military police duties of protecting and serving his fellow Marines when his convoy came in contact with a roadside explosive device and intense small arms fire. His actions on that fateful day are what we expect from the best and brightest that we have in the ranks of our Corps.

At his memorial service his officer in charge, 1st Lt. Scott Welch, reflected on that fateful day by

stating: "Lance Cpl. Burgess was our guardian angel.

"He was there, in the turret protecting all of us."

At the age of twenty and with about two years in the Corps, Lance Cpl. Burgess gave his all to support our country's efforts in the Global War on Terror and for that we must be truly grateful.

As the war continues to rage on, we must not lose sight of our nation's objectives of freedom, peace and prosperity. We all must be prepared to make sacrifices and serve honorably to accomplish the mission. Everyone must prepare now by focusing on those basic warrior skills that equate to excellence in warfighting. We must ensure our efforts are unified and that we continue to bring the fight to the enemy wherever that may take us.

As Maj. Gen. Mattis puts it, "Our country is counting on us even as our enemies watch and calculate, hoping that America does not have warriors strong enough to withstand discomfort and danger. You, my fine young men, are going to prove the enemy wrong – dead wrong." The Marine Corps will prove our enemies wrong and remain a certain force for an uncertain world thanks to great heroes like Lance Cpl. Burgess.

Turn on air conditioning

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RICHARD ROBINSON
Energy Conservation Manager

Summertime is quickly approaching. The birds are in the trees chirping, cherry blossoms have already bloomed, air conditioning is blowing cold air – no wait that's not right. The air conditioning has not been turned on because as per Marine Corps Air Station Order 11300.6 the air conditioning will not be turned on until we reach a heat index of 78 degrees for three consecutive days. The heat index is not only the outside air temperature but it also takes into account the humidity, cloud cover and other meteorological things that get too deep for me. This order has been in effect for years now and yet some residents think it just started.

The reason for having a set temperature is not only to conserve energy and electricity, but it's also preserving the equipment itself. When an air conditioning system works at only half its capacity, then the components inside the unit are not functioning at their designed level. This will cause as many problems as if the unit was being overworked.

I've heard comments as well as complaints like: "Back in the states at my previous base we could turn the AC on any time we wanted" or "I can't believe that the government won't spend a few dollars to turn on the AC earlier" and the best one was "I never turned my AC off in my house back in Florida and I never had that high an electric bill."

Well consider this, there are more than 300 facilities on the Station. If you compare the electric bills during the months of April and August we go from paying around \$400,000 up to nearly \$1,000,000. What causes this spike in cost you ask? Simple, it's AC use and the abuse of it as well. Now, you have to remember that having the AC on is not a bad thing, but when you have the AC on with

windows and doors left open, the fan speed is left on high all day long. When you go to lunch and you don't turn the fan speed down then this is all feeding that electric bill. Last year I couldn't go around the Station without finding windows open in office spaces, doors being left open at the Marine Corps Exchange, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters/Bachelor Officers Quarters windows wide open, midrise units with sliding glass doors open. And the whole time the cold air from the AC was flowing right out of all those openings.

I'd like to turn my AC on right now just like everyone else. But you know what, as the Station energy manager I have a Station order to abide by and unless directed by the commanding officer of MCAS Iwakuni, I will follow that order. With this said, the AC will not be turned on until a heat index of 78 degrees is reached for three consecutive days.

Natural ventilation is an awesome thing! Mother nature does a great job of controlling the world's temperature, so let her help you out while the AC is not on. Open your windows and let the cool morning air circulate throughout your residence and offices. When the sun starts heating up, then close the blinds to keep the sun out.

One last note, the money used for paying the Station electricity bill is the same money that is used by the Station commanding officer for funding quality of life and other special projects. So the more money we all save by conserving electricity, the more money will go back into the Station to improve quality of life for everyone.

Let's start the summer out right Iwakuni by saving electricity and energy. You may contact me at 253-6148, my e-mail address is robinsorn@iwakuni.usmc.mil and my office is located in building 130b (the same building Station Safety is in.)

Young Sailors on deadline for warfare device

CHL. DAVE BONI
Combat Correspondent

Due to recent Navy approved changes, all active-duty junior enlisted Sailors assigned to Fleet Marine Force commands must complete qualifications for the Fleet Marine Force Warfare Device within their first 18 months of joining the unit.

The change affects all E-1s to E-4s, who in the past were not required to obtain the device until the rank of petty officer second class and higher.

"I absolutely agree with the change," said Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Mulick, leading petty officer for the Dental Clinic. "In the past we didn't push our young Sailors to get the FMF device. Now that it's mandatory, it will only help them in their careers."

In order to qualify for the FMF Warfare Device, a Sailor must go through a battery of classes, Mulick said. Once the

bookwork is completed, practical application soon follows.

"After the practical application, the Sailor will take a 150-question written exam with a minimum passing score of 80 percent," he said.

The final portion to qualify for the FMF Warfare Device entails an oral exam, where an applicant can be asked any question learned during earlier classes.

Recent FMF Warfare Device recipient, Petty Officer 2nd Class David Williams, dental technician the Dental Clinic,



Cpl. Dave Boni

All Navy E-1s to E-4s are required to obtain the Fleet Marine Force Warfare Device within their first 18 months of joining a Fleet Marine Force command.

said he wouldn't have been able to get his device without the support of Marines here.

"We had Marines from Marine Wing

Support Squadron 171 teach us about customs and courtesies, Combat Service Support Detachment 36 Marines explain land navigation and many other Marines from other units who volunteered their time to help us qualify," said Williams. "The Marines really went above and beyond and we all appreciate it."

Learning from Marines in order to better work with Marines is what Williams said the FMF Warfare Device is all about.

"Going through the classes and the training sessions lets us know, if even a small portion, what the Marines have to go through," he said. "If we are out in the field with a unit, we need to be able to handle ourselves. I know if I need to shoot an azimuth I know I can and that breeds confidence in everything else you are doing. The change to the FMF Warfare Device policy was definitely needed because the pin means something to those who wear it."

Teachers appreciated for hard work

LANCE CHL. GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

They are scheduled to work from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. But the truth is that most of the time they have to take work home, grade papers, or have lessons ready for their students the next day.

In recognition of teachers' hard work, the National Education Association has dedicated the first week of May as National Teacher's Appreciation week. The first Tuesday of May, has been declared National Teacher Day.

Matthew C. Perry Schools, along with the Parent Teacher Organizations, honored teachers May 3-7 with various treats and luncheons throughout the week.

Teachers' work ethic and dedication can be an essential tool to improve the quality of schools. According to David Tran, M.C. Perry High School vice principal, "Here, teachers go above and beyond what they are asked compared to the states. The teacher's preparation and their ability to contact parents is great. Teachers often will teach individual students during their prep time helping students that weren't able to attend their class."

"At the high school level, teachers often teach several classes at the same time," said Alice R. Berard, M.C. Perry High School principal. "For example, in foreign language classes a teacher may teach several different levels of the language in the same class period."

"Teachers have to be able to multitask in order to teach several classes. Thus, teachers have to be very organized because their job involves various demands and expectations," states Tran.

With the rapid pace of technological advances, teachers must continue to pursue their own education in order to keep up with the changes.

"For the teachers here it is hard to continue their studies," said Berard. "They do not have university classes available to them. So in order for them to continue learning and keep current in their field of study, they have to attend school in the states during the summer."

M. C. Perry Schools have some of the best teachers in Japan, said Berard.

"Over the past two years, the teacher of the year for the Japan District has come from the Perry Schools," said Berard. "It is quite an honor as they are selected from the best teachers of the 20 different schools in Japan."

Having teachers of the year is indicative of the high quality of educators that can be found in the Perry Schools as well as the Department of Defense Education Activity Schools.

"As administrators, we are very appreciative of the way the teachers make the year for the teachers, this building would be just another building on the Station. It is their dedication, their hard work, and their concern for children that make our schools a special place."



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

Allison Maze, first grade teacher, sits down to have a talk with student Kaseim Taylor during recess.

NEWS BRIEFS

TOKYO EMBASSY

The Immigrant Visa Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo will be closed during the month of July. A new computer software system is being installed. Accordingly, there will be no immigrant visa interviews or issues conducted at the Tokyo Embassy in July. For more information, call the office of the Station Judge Advocate at 253-5591 or 253-5594.

SEALED BID SALE

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office Iwakuni's next local sealed bid sale will start Monday. Property on sale can and should be inspected at DRMO from Monday to Wednesday. Make sure to inspect the property prior to bidding. Bid must be received no later than Thursday, 8 a.m. Property on sale includes furniture, ADP equipment, lamp, photo equipment and exercise equipment. Call 253-3982 or 253-4089 for details.

AUTOMATED TIME/TEMPERATURE ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEM

Dial 112 to hear the current time and temperature in English, and dial 115 to hear them in Japanese. Call the Telephone Office at 253-5555 if you have any questions.

To Heartland from communist regime, political refugee becomes U.S. Marine

LANCE CH. RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

Communism, according to Karl Marx and Frederick Engels' "The Communist Manifesto", is the social theory and political movement for the direct and communal control of society toward the common benefits of all members, is a word many Americans synonymize with "un-American."

In the 20th century, the world was introduced and then significantly changed by communism. For the first time in history, it became an actual social and political system. It became the ruling government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Inspired by Marxism, the Soviet totalitarianism set free an industrialization drive based on total state control of physical and human resources. For 70 years, it reigned as the ruling government of the Soviet Union.

Corporal = Gleb Skudnov, Information Systems Management Office noncommissioned officer in charge, was 17 years old when he left his home in Moscow with his family. Seeking refuge from the collapsing government, the Skudnov family found themselves in the heartland of the United States, Bowling Green, Ky.

"Bowling Green was a lot different from Moscow," Skudnov said with a smile.

Drawing comparisons between the two cities is difficult. But to actually experience it was even harder, said Skudnov.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Part of Cpl. Gleb Skudnov's job has the Information Systems Management Office noncommissioned officer in charge checking the Station's network board.

"It was a big change. There were so many cultural differences. Life in Moscow was more fast-paced, but life in the states was better," said Skudnov.

At the same time, on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, Stalinism had fallen in the Soviet Union. The 70-year communist reign was over. Mikhail Gorbachev was the last leader of the Soviet Union and admitted to the world that the government was based on propaganda.

Unable to deal with the downfall and all the catastrophe of the country, his father requested political asylum.

"My father was against communism. He hated the regime with a passion. He had gotten in trouble with the KGB and wanted to leave Russia.

"I was oblivious to the way things were going in the Soviet Union, but my father decided that it would be best for my family to move to America. The man had always wanted to live in a free country" said Skudnov.

Dealing with a new country, a new lifestyle, a new culture and a new language was overwhelming for the Moscow native.

"I had trouble speaking English, but I worked so many jobs and met a lot of people that I picked up on it. One of the best ways to learn English is by working at Pizza Hut," said Skudnov, jokingly.

As he got older, he became bored with the mundane living of working the regular nine to fives, and sometimes 12 to 15 hours. And although he owned his own networking business, he wanted a lot more. What it was, he wasn't sure.

"I wanted to do something real. I wanted to have an actual sense of what life was like. I did not feel as if I was progressing," said Skudnov.

At the age of 25, Skudnov became interested in life in the military.

"Most of my friends from back in Russia were drafted into the military," said Skudnov.

It became apparent to him that his friends who were in the military matured in a lot of ways. That is what he was looking for, Skudnov said.

Skudnov first spoke to an Air Force recruiter.

"The first thing I told him was that I wanted something challenging, physical and something that

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Traffic Management Office eases moving burden

GUNNERYSGT. M.A. ZEID
Combat Correspondent

"A successful move is not a matter of chance. It is the result of planning and hard work. At the center of these efforts is you – the shipper. If you expect a good move, you must play an active role."

These words appear in the beginning of a pamphlet from the Traffic Management Office given to all service members when they come in to request information on shipping their household goods.

"People need to be aware that these are their personal affects, and that they have to take an active role in the process," said Staff Sgt. Ibn A. Taylor, a 28-year-old, Philadelphia native and personal property shipping office staff noncommissioned officer in charge.

The process starts as soon as the service member receives his permanent change of station orders. According to information provided by TMO, service members should come in and

start making arrangements at least four to six weeks before their departure date. The sooner they get started, the easier it will be when they get to their new duty station.

"People can make their move easier by discarding old unwanted items, things they haven't used in a while," explained Taylor.

Since all shipping entitlements are based on weight, it's best to get rid of unnecessary items to stay under weight limitations, stated Taylor. If the household effects exceed the weight entitlement for the service member, it will cost the individual anywhere from a couple hundred dollars to several thousand, he said.

"The next step is to make sure things are separated. Items for the express shipment are in one place, and regular household goods are in another place," said Taylor.

As he explained it, the express shipment should be items such as clothes, which will be needed as soon as people get to their destination, along with cooking utensils, plates

and bedding. Since the weight is limited and all items must fit into containers of a specific size, no furniture can be in this shipment. It's best to send this shipment out three to four weeks before departure, said Taylor. The regular household shipment should be the majority of the service member's possessions and is usually picked up one to two weeks before departure.

"They should also take pictures of expensive items to show proof of ownership and the condition of the items," stressed Taylor.

People are encouraged to document all valuables by taking photos of them and making sure they have receipts or proof of value for these items.

TMO recommends having valuables appraised and taking small items such as jewelry, coins and stocks or bonds with the individuals in their luggage.

They also recommend personal possessions, along with important papers such as passports and airline

tickets, be packaged and stored somewhere else, such as the car trunk or at a friend's house when the carrier comes to pack up the rest of the household goods. This prevents the movers from packing these items in the household goods shipment.

Also recommended is to make sure all pets are secured in cages and kept in separate locations, such as a closet or a friend's house, or tied up outside. Taylor pointed out that it's quite easy for a pet to get accidentally packed up in a box.

In fact, TMO provides everyone with information on how to make his or her move smoother. They have pamphlets which tell exactly what people should do and when to do it, as well as giving them advice and information on ways to protect their property. Furthermore, this same information can be found online at <http://www.mtmc.army.mil/frontDoor>.

So the bottom line is, the more active role people take in their move, the better things will be down the line and at their next duty station.

Marine retires to 'higher call'

LANCE CH. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

What's a killer to do when it's time to leave the Corps? Churchgoers beware; Master Sgt. Robert W. Van Horn, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron Air Traffic Control staff noncommissioned officer in charge, is going into ministry.

"Actually I'll be an assistant pastor," clarified the Vancouver, Wash., native. "We'll be moving to Yuma, Ariz. I was stationed there for 13 years so it's kind of like our home."

Van Horn said the decision to become a minister was made with his wife in 1992.

"We were led into pastoring through the confirmation of other people," explained Van Horn. "I've had many opportunities to assume leadership roles. I think my experience in the Marine Corps has proven invaluable for what I'll be doing."

Since his decision, Van Horn has been actively involved in ministry.

"I've looked for opportunities to serve wherever I've been stationed," said Van Horn. "I pastored at Grace Bible Church here for a year while the pastor went on furlough."

Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Karakas, ATC training chief, also attends Grace Bible Church. Karakas knows Van Horn as both pastor and SNCOIC.

"The thing that sticks out about him is whatever he's involved in, it's to the fullest extent," said Karakas.

According to Capt. Joseph B. Turkal, ATC officer in charge, Van Horn reveals this commitment particularly by setting the example for his Marines.

"He shows Marines he cares by being in front of them and imparting his knowledge to them," said Turkal. "He also takes a lot of time and effort counseling his NCO's."

Teaching and counseling are both important qualities for a pastor, but what do Van Horn's co-workers think about his new career?

"It's going to be a shame when he leaves, but the fact that he's got a calling above and beyond the Marine Corps is all that matters," said Karakas.

According to Turkal, Van Horn's "calling" is understood best by getting to know him.

"Everything about him makes him perfect for the job," said Turkal. "I think that's what's going to fulfill him and make him happy, and I



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Master Sgt. Robert W. Van Horn, Air Traffic Control staff non-commissioned officer in charge, reads his Bible in preparation for his new job as a pastor after his retirement this month.

couldn't be happier for him." "My name plate on my desk has an eagle globe and anchor on one side of it, and a cross on the other side," said Van Horn. "When Marines come in this office to talk to me, I ask them if they want to talk to me on the Marine Corps side, or I point to the cross and

ask if they want to talk to me on this side. Many times, they'll point to the side with the cross on it, because they're at a point in their life when they need it. I always counsel them that Jesus is the answer to their problems."

Van Horn's eyes light up as he speaks the name. For him, it's not about a church; it's about a person.

"I want people to know who Jesus Christ is," he explained. "As indestructible as they think they are, I think Marines realize there's something more than just themselves."

Although Van Horn will assume the position of associate pastor June 1, it won't be his last "oorah."

"The Marine Corps has been my entire life up to this point, and it will continue to be," said Van Horn. "I'll be very close to a base in Yuma. I hope to always be actively involved with military people."

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for the duration of the mobilization, and he receives regular pay and allowances according to his grade and time in service.

Compared to the cost of mobilizing a reserve Marine of the same grade, the Marine Corps saves money equal to the amount of the retired Marine's benefits, according to an approved Secretary of the Navy memorandum.

The intent is to maximize the use of our large pool of qualified and capable retirees who volunteer for active service, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Riehl, officer in charge of sourcing, MPP branch.

"We currently have about 20 retirees retained or recalled to active duty serving in GWOT-related billets," said Riehl. Retained retirees are those who haven't yet left active duty, but upon reaching their scheduled retirement date remain in their current

billet. Once their mobilization orders are complete, they will begin to collect retirement benefits, based on their original retirement date. In contrast, recalled retirees are those who retired as scheduled, began collecting retirement benefits, and then were mobilized to support GWOT. Upon completion of their mobilization orders, their retirement benefits are reinstated.

As far as their effect on the rest of the Marine Corps goes, retained and recalled retirees will count toward active duty end strength, said Riehl. However, because of the anticipated small number of retiree activations, they won't negatively impact manpower plans, and, based on a SecNav waiver, they won't count toward controlled promotion tables either, he said.

Bernard McGowan, currently a project manager for the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Jacksonville, N.C., is a retired Marine lieutenant colonel who was one of the first in the

"retired/recalled" category to be mobilized.

"I knew the Marine Corps was looking for folks with my (military occupational specialty) and I felt a call to duty, so I volunteered," he said.

After retiring in September 2000, McGowan was then mobilized for 179 days in January 2002. He served as the assistant chief of staff, G-6, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"The Corps needed me, and I was glad to help out," he said.

To be qualified to serve, retirees must not have a medical disability rating or have been retired more than five years, added Riehl.

Retirees interested in volunteering should immediately submit their information via Reserve Duty OnLine at <https://rdol.mol.usmc.mil>. (A user ID and password can be obtained by registering on Marine OnLine at <https://www.mol.usmc.mil/>)

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both required by order and the safe decision to make when riding.

"In the past 16 years I have only been in four accidents," said Smith. "From those four, I have yet to get injured. At the same time, I have had friends get seriously injured because they weren't wearing proper footgear or gloves. Living alone is a good reason to wear proper equipment."

HEARTLAND from Page 4

gives discipline. The recruiter immediately referred me to the Marine Corps.

"I went to the Marine recruiters and they really set a good example. They were very open-minded. It was then that I said to myself, 'this is it for me'," Skudnov said.

Skudnov enlisted in the Marine Corps on August 29, 2002. "I learned a great deal of respect and understanding from the Marine Corps. I didn't know of any services before I joined. The only thing I knew is what I saw on the television. But I respected the Marine Corps out of all of them," said Skudnov.

The corporal of Marines plans on going to college after he finishes his contract. He plans to return to the Corps as an officer.

"I inspire myself and I know life is worth living. It has its ups and downs but through it all, no matter what comes, we must overcome all obstacles, regardless of where you are from," said Skudnov.



Lance Cpl. David Revere
Cpl. Pat Goupal, Canadian SkyHawk Team parachute jumper, takes the plunge with style from a CH-46 over the crowd for Friendship Day, May 5.



Cpl. Robert Wynkoop
Japan Air Self Defense Force T-4s soar through the blue with perfect grace for Friendship Day, May 5.



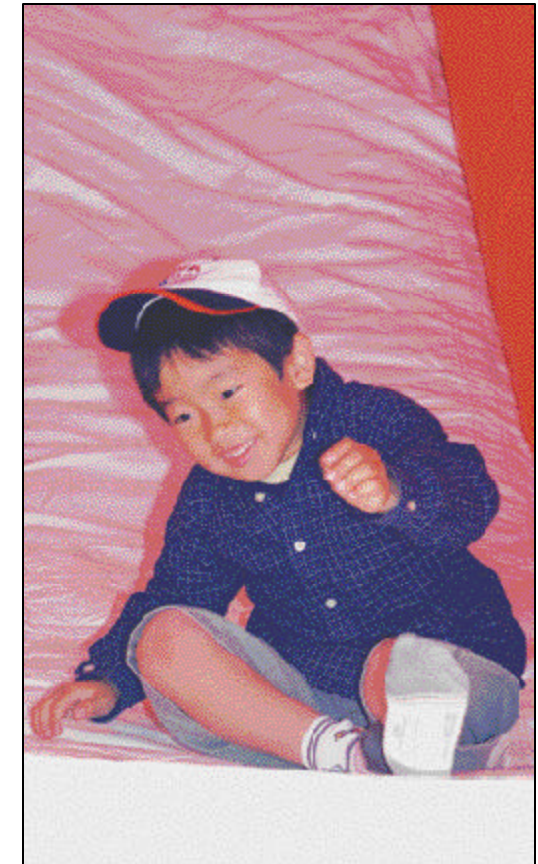
Cpl. Robert Wynkoop
Deep Blue aerial acrobatic demonstration team airplanes decorate the sky with ribbons of smoke during Friendship Day 2004, May 5.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon
More than 150,000 people gathered on the flight line here to be a part of the 2004 Friendship Day festival, May 5. The masses enjoyed a "friendly" day of fun filled with static displays, food, music and a day of being with service members.



Cpl. Robert Wynkoop
Eleven-year-old Yuki Nakamura tries on a helmet inside the cockpit of a Navy Seahawk helicopter as Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott Guidry, aviation warfare systems operator with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 51 from Atsugi, Japan looks on during Friendship Day 2004.



Pfc. Lydia Davey
A Japanese visitor tumbles down a Kid's Land slide during Friendship Day. The slide was one of several attractions available to Station visitors.

Modern Japan enjoys ancient therapy

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

The classic Marine Corps adage, "Pain is weakness leaving the body," finds a literal application for Station residents availing themselves of Japanese acupuncture therapists.

A quick perusal of the yellow pages reveals a dozen such experts within six miles of the Station. According to Yoko Seo, the Station culture specialist, there's one reason acupuncture therapy is popular in Japan.

"It works," she states. "Even though Japan is modernized, many people still believe in it, but there isn't really a scientific explanation."

Attempting a scientific explanation for sticking tiny needles into a human body might present a challenge, but according to a health report by the British Broadcasting Company, there's a method to the madness.

"Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese art based on the theory that Qi energy flows along meridians in the body, and can be stimulated by

inserting fine needles at specific points," the BBC Web site states.

"Qi has to do with people believing in the natural power of the body," Seo said. "This idea was imported into Japan around 400 B.C."

Searching for a clear explanation of exactly how the process works isn't easy. The 2,000-year-old therapy retains its mystery to this day, though it's effectiveness continues to be proven.

According to the BBC Web site, acupuncture is used today to treat asthma, addiction, arthritis, depression, anxiety, blood pressure disorder and problems with the digestive system.

The therapy's reluctance to be pinned down into a formula could have to do with a common Western thought that acupuncture is simply another method for pain relief.

Jonathan Monckton, director of the Research Council for Complementary Medicine, said that students of acupuncture must first obtain the right mind-set.

"In the East, acupuncture is seen as a whole system of health care, whereas in the West the focus seems to be on the relief of pain as a way of validating its effectiveness," Monckton said. "This could be seen to be rather a restrictive approach."

Monckton suggested a holistic approach in studying acupuncture therapy.

"In Western medicine, two plus two equals four, but in Eastern medicine, it could mean something else," affirmed Seo.



Yoshiko Yokoi, acupuncture therapist, treats a patient at the Chuo Harikyuin acupuncture clinic.

Given its benefits, is acupuncture really worth the pain involved?

According to the BBC Web site, there is little to no pain during treatment. A slight pinprick is the

extent of the sensory experience.

Station residents can arrange a treatment at a local acupuncture clinic for as little as ¥3,000 for half an hour.



A hair-sized needle is inserted at energy centers along the treated area during acupuncture.



OUT THE GATE

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

Recycle Plaza Flea Market

The flea market will be held in the parking lot of the Iwakuni City Recycle Plaza May 22, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call 32-5371 for details.

Tango (Boys' Festival) Display

This display, showing approximately 50 armors, swords, harness and more which are nearly 300 years

old, is held now through May 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mori Museum in Hofu. Admission fee is required. Call 0835-22-0001 for details.

Memorial Service For Emperor Suiko

A service will be held at Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island Tuesday, 9 a.m. After the service, Bugaku, dance and music, are performed. Admission fee is required in order to enter the shrine. Call 0829-44-2020 for more information.

Nishiki River Houseboat Tour

A houseboat tour, which goes

down the Nishiki river around the Kintai Bridge, is being held until May 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Reservation and admission fee are required. Lunch is included in the tour. Call 41-0470 to reserve or for details.

Sogetsu School Flower Arrangement Display

This display will take place at Sinfonia Iwakuni, May 21-23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Approximately 100 arrangements are shown in the display room and in the garden. Admission is free. For more information, call 21-0286.

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

VW Golf GLI, 1996, auto, A/C, excellent condition, JCI until July 2005, \$3,000 obo. Call Therese Fitzgeralds at 253-4383 dwh or 31-7965 awb.

Toyota Surf, 1992, excellent condition, road tax paid, extra set of off road tires, well maintained, JCI until March 2006, \$3,500. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awb.

Nissan Cedric, 1992, excellent condition, road tax paid, JCI until April 2006, \$2,000. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awb.

Honda Ascot, 1990, 4-door-sedan, P/W, radio/cassette, sun roof, com-

fortable, low mileage, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$1,350 obo. Call Jim Sweeney at 31-8451 or Diane at 253-3501 dwh.

Honda Vigor, 1992, JCI until May 2006, \$1,500 obo. Call 253-2145.

Toyota Town Ace, 1991, 7 passenger, A/C, CD player, runs great, 2 sun roofs, JCI until Jan. 2006, \$1,200 obo. Call SSgt. Cox at 253-4979 dwh or 253-2128 awb.

Honda Prelude, 1991, new tires, sun roof, automatic, power everything, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$2,000. Call Alice Hosley at 253-2621.

Mazda Roadster, 1990, 5

speed, Eunon convertible, CD changer, new back window, excellent condition, JCI until Aug. 2005, \$1,500. Call Hope at 253-4673 dwh or 253-2461 awb.

Yamaha Dragstar 1100 Classic, 2001, 1100cc, windshield, saddle bags, vance & hines exhaust, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$5,000. Call Capt. Braund at 253-4584 dwh or 253-5705 awb.

Honda Inspire, 1992, 2 door, runs fine, JCI until Dec. 2005, \$1,500 obo. Call Bob or Stacey at 253-2374.

Mazda Capella, 1996, 4 door, air bags, timing belt replaced 2002, comfortable, runs well, available

early June, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$2,100 obo. Call Elizabeth Stevenson at 253-5524 dwh or 21-7960 awb.

Honda VFR 800i, 2000, 800cc, motorcycle, excellent condition, low mileage, cover included, JCI until March 2006, \$5,500 obo. Call SSgt. Hasey at 253-3211 or 253-7126.

Harley Davidson Tour Glide, 1988, mint condition, road tax paid, well maintained, JCI until March 2006, \$8,500. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awb.

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., paintball gun, Piranha, 15 inch and 10 inch barrel, two air tanks,

autoloader, hopper, mask, gloves, three pod pack, paintballs, lots of spare parts, \$160. Call 45-1660 or leave message at 253-6058.

Misc., three kerosene heaters with cans and guard gates, excellent condition, \$250 for all or also sold individually; 13 inch color TV with built-in VCR, \$35; some area carpets, excellent condition. Call 38-0289.

Misc., girls Schwinn hybrid/mountain bike, good condition, great for a petite woman or preteen, \$65 obo; vintage 4 poster pineapple bed, rock maple, double 52, \$175 without mattress or \$250 with nice Serta mattress & box spring. Call Stacey at 253-2374.

Misc., antique early American oak table with 4 chairs, \$500; white on white paisley sofa, \$300. Call Kelly at 253-3455 dwh or 253-2410 awb.

Misc., dining room table and four padded rolling chairs, extension leaf, \$300 obo; Japanese washer and dryer, \$150; Japanese refrigerator, \$200; small convection oven, \$25; Japanese microwave, \$10; rolling wooden desk chair, \$25. Make offer. Call Elizabeth Stevenson at 253-5524 dwh or 21-7960 awb.

WANTED

Wanted, summer girl clothes, 0-3 months; fall/winter girl clothes, 3-6 months. Call Heather at 253-2990.

JOB OPENINGS

Commissary
Deli workers are needed. Full or part time, \$6.70/hour, no experience necessary, high school welcome to apply, must be 16-years-old or older. Stop by the deli or call Jana Manning at 253-3249 for more information.

SAKURA THEATER



MAN ON FIRE

Denzel Washington stars as a government operative/soldier of fortune who has pretty much given up on life. He reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect a child whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He becomes close to the child and their relationship reawakens and rekindles his spirit. When she is abducted, his fiery rage is unleashed on those he feels responsible, and he stops at nothing to save her. (146 minutes)



SECRET WINDOW

Mort Rainey, a writer just coming off of a troublesome divorce with his ex-wife, Amy, finds himself stalked at his remote lake house by a psychotic stranger who claims Mort stole his best story idea and just changed the ending. (106 minutes)



TAKING LIVES

When Montreal detectives handling a local homicide investigation reluctantly ask for an outsider's help to get inside the head of a cunning serial killer, top FBI profiler Illeana Scott (Angelina Jolie) joins the case. With meticulous insight, she theorizes that the chameleon-like killer is "life-jacking" - assuming the lives and identities of his victims. (102 minutes)

FRIDAY

6:30 p.m. Man On Fire (R)
10 p.m. Secret Window (PG-13)

SATURDAY

1 p.m. Agent Cody Banks 2 (PG)
4 p.m. The Cooler (R)
7 p.m. Dawn Of The Dead (R)
10 p.m. Taking Lives (R)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (R)
7 p.m. Man On Fire (R)

MONDAY

7 p.m. Calendar Girls (PG-13)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (R)

WEDNESDAY

2 p.m. Scooby Doo 2 (PG)
7 p.m. Secret Window (PG-13)

THURSDAY

7 p.m. MC Perry H.S. Concert

MCTV
MOVIE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Shattered Glass (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Terminator 3 (R)
2 a.m. The Life Of David Gale (R)

SAURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Duplex (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Love Don't Cost A Thing (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. House Of Sand And Fog (R)
2 a.m. Undisputed (R)

SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. School Of Rock (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Others (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Last Samurai (R)
2 a.m. Fatal Attraction (R)

MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Looney Tunes: Back In Action (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Queen Of The Damned (R)
2 a.m. Confidence (R)

TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. The Hulk (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. You Got Served (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Order (R)
2 a.m. Death To Smoochy (R)

WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Cheaper By The Dozen (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Stuck On You (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Me Myself And Irene (R)
2 a.m. Twelve Monkeys (R)

THURSDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. The Rescuers (G)
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Haunted Mansion (PG)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Old School (R)
2 a.m. Lethal Weapon (R)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule
Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST
Monday -DLAB
Wednesday -ACT
Thursday -SAT
May 24 -EDPT
May 26 -DLPT
May 27 -AFCT
 For more information, call 253-3855.

HEALTHCARE

Your Child's Self-Esteem
 Wednesday, 12-1 p.m. Discover ways to help your child develop a strong sense of his or her value. Call 253-6553 for details.

CHRO

CHRO Training
 ■ **EBIS/My Pay/TSP:** Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., Distance Learning Center, Building 360.
 ■ **Privacy Act:** June 4, 1-2 p.m.
 ■ **Effective Communication Skills:** June 21-23, 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 except EBIS/My Pay/TSP class.

MCCS

Career Resource Management Center (253-6439)
 ■ **Tips For Teaching English:**

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

Sunday	8 a.m.	Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/ Adult Bible Fellowships
	11 a.m.	Gospel Worship Service
	7 p.m.	Liturgical Divine Worship (1st Sunday of the Month)

Cooperative Chapel Ministries

3rd Saturday 8 a.m. **Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

LAY LED SERVICES

Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Bible Study

Jesus Christ Apostolic

Sunday	12:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study

Seventh-Day Adventist

2nd & 4th Saturdays
 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School/Worship

Jewish

Friday 6 p.m. Shabbat

Latter Day Saints

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

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

one night at the National Youth House in Tokuji with children from Shunan city. Sign-up at the Youth Center or Building 411, Room 107.

COMMUNITY

Air Strike Quilters
 There will be a meeting May 22, 11 a.m. in Building 655. For more information, call Pat at 253-5647.

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.

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 Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.

Marine Corps Family Team Building (253-3754)

■ **Community Resource Training:** Tuesday, 9-11 a.m. at Yujo Hall.
 ■ **L.I.N.K.S. Session:** May 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Yujo Hall. Free childcare is available. Arrangements must be made at least one week in advance.

University of Maryland

Registration for Term 5 is Monday through May 28. Term dates are May 31 through July 24. First-time students enrolling in college math or English are required to take a placement exam prior to registration. Course offerings include System Analysis & Design, Technical Writing and Business Finance. For a complete list of courses, pick up a schedule in Building 411 or call 253-3494 for more information.

Vegetarian Style Cooking Class

Tuesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Iron-Works Gym Wellness Kitchen. Sign-up for \$5. Call 253-6359 for details.

All About Kabuki

May 24, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn about this traditional Japanese theatrical art dating back to the 17th century. Call 253-6165 for details.

Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m.

■ **Basic Resume Writing:** Thursday, 1-3 p.m.
 ■ **Local Employment Overview:** May 25, 9-10:30 a.m.

Club Iwakuni (253-3727)

■ **Leader's Night:** Tuesday, 5-8 p.m. in the Landing Zone Lounge. E5s and below invite your leaders to the club.

MCX (253-5641)

■ **Block Sale:** Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Single Marine Program (253-3891)

■ **Tamagawa Camping Trip,** May 21-22. \$10 transportation fee. Bring yen for expenses. Breakfast is provided.

■ **Yakiniku Dinner,** May 23, 6 p.m. \$10 transportation. Bring lots of yen for dinner.

■ **Fukuoka Sea Hawks' Town,** May 29, 7 a.m. \$20 transportation. Bring at least ¥10,000 for lunch, shopping and souvenirs.

■ **Universal Studios Trip,** May 30, 5 a.m. \$20 transportation fee. Bring at least ¥10,000 for souvenirs and lunch.

Youth Center (253-4769)

■ **Cultural Exchange: Overnight Trip To Tokuji Camp Site** June 12-13, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children from the Station stay



Photo courtesy of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171

Air Base Ground Defense

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 security forces escort an enemy prisoner of war following his capture during attempted airfield penetration. Air base ground defense exercises were conducted in January in preparation for March's Exercise Fowl Eagle.

Unit rivalry renewed at field meet

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CH. GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 dominated the various units within Marine Aircraft Group 12 as they were crowned the MAG-12 field meet champions.

MALS-12 won five of the eight events despite tough competition from units like Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 and MAG-12 Headquarters.

The MAG-12 field meet had an event for each of the units to show off their skills. Softball, flag football, 782-gear relay race and tug of war were just some of the events held.

For each event, the competitive nature of Marines stood out as they fought for the championship trophy.

"The games were a lot of fun, but people got competitive in each of the events," said Josh Sirek from MAG-12

Headquarters. "The rivalry from the inner squadrons came out especially at the end with the trophy up for grab."

Mathew Queen, Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 flag football player said, "The flag football games were competitive. They demonstrated how bad everyone wanted to win, but for the most part we were out here to enjoy a nice day and have fun with each other. I had a blast out here playing football and being a part of the companionship with the rest of the squadron."

Marines enjoyed a relaxing day off in preparation for the busy schedule that awaits them with summer approaching.

"MAG-12 wanted a break from flying and wanted to do something fun," said Michael Crothers, VMFA (AW)-225 softball coordinator. "We wanted to do something to stop the monotony of everyday events. This is not something that happens very often but is nice. This builds camaraderie and most Marines are competi-



Gabriel Carasco, third baseman, and catcher Eddie Lujan trapped Ricky Hall in a run down between third and home base, despite the effort Hall managed to slide by.

tive so most Marines enjoy of the events."

"We wanted to make sure all the Marines got a relaxing day off prior to the summer schedule," said John Rupp, VMFA (AW)-225 softball player.



Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Marines try to make an expedient transfer between Marines during the 782 relay race in the Marine Aircraft Group 12 field meet.



Antoine Bailey, Banshees quarterback, scrambles from the opposing team's linemen in an attempt to create something positive for his team during the flag football game.



IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

SPRING TROPHY BOWLING LEAGUE

The league begins Tuesday. Bowling takes place every Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, 11:15 a.m. at the Bowling Center.

BOWLING CENTER HIP HOP & BLUES NIGHT

Saturday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Enjoy \$1 games and the sounds of rhythm and blues and hip hop. Customers receive 10 percent off all food entrees. Call 253-3558 for more information.

SEAHORSE SOCCER CAMP

Registration begins Monday for the June 29 through July 2 camp at Penny Lake. Boys and girls age 5 to 8 years-old sign-up at the Iron-Works Gym for \$30 until June 21. This is a ministry based soccer camp led by former professional players and college students from California. Call 253-3239 for details.

SPRING INVITATIONAL SKATEBOARD COMPETITION

May 22, 1-5 p.m. Free and open to the Station residents and their guests. Skaters compete in beginner and advance categories at the Skate Park. In the event of rain, the competition will take place May 23. For more information, call 253-3727.

ENERGY AWARENESS RUNS AND BIKE RACES

No advance sign-up or entry fees. Just show up and be ready to race. Males and females compete separately in the following age categories: 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39 and 40+. Awards will be given to the top three in each category. For details, call Chief Robinson at 253-6148 or e-mail to robinsonr@iwakuni.usmc.mil. 2.5-kilometer Children's Run and 5-kilometer Adult Run are held May 26, behind the IronWorks Gym. Adult 38-kilometer Bike Race and Children's 5-kilometer Bike Race are held May 29 at the Crossroads Amphitheater.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

The Canadian SkyHawks Parachute Demonstration Team stand at the position of attention for Station Commanding Officer Col. Dave Darrah after all of them jumped off a CH-46 helicopter. The act was part of the Friendship Day 2004 festival, here, May 5.

Skydivers jump for 'Friendship'

LANCE Cpl. RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

All hands were joined, one on top of the other, and a slow, steady chant commenced.

Through the thunderous sounds of a CH-46's helicopter propeller blades spinning in never-ending circles and violent winds blowing from 6,000 feet above sea level, the Canadian SkyHawks Parachute Demonstration Team clasped and held hands seconds before jumping out of the helicopter.

The chanting continued; cheers of adrenaline.

And then, they drop. Dropping at 160 miles per hour for what onlookers see as only a second. But to the

SkyHawks it seems like hours.

With the pull of a cord, a giant canopy erupts above the skydiver. Unfurled, the parachute displays the Canadian flag.

The 150,000 plus spectators that came aboard the Station for the 2004 Friendship Day Festival, May 5, looked with amazement toward the clear blue sky and saw a dozen parachutes lingering, dancing, flying in the air.

As they landed one by one onto the flight line, thousands cheered to see such a display. Children laughed and pointed toward the sky with curiosity as to how they flew.

From the speakers the Japanese National Anthem poured out to the crowd, while one of the Canadian SkyHawks carried the Japanese flag. All attendants stood at a position of attention.

The tune from the speakers

continued and merged into the Canadian National Anthem. Then, from the air, appeared another sky diver holding the Canadian flag.

The "Star Spangled Banner" began to echo across the flight line. The last Canadian SkyHawk flew across the audience bearing the American flag. Service members held their salute until the tune faded away.

Once all the Canadian SkyHawks rallied on the runway, they all stood at parade rest for Station Commanding Officer Col. Dave Darrah, and then cut to the position of attention and saluted.

The Canadian Sky Hawks Parachute Demonstration Team was one of the many attractions that the Friendship Day Festival offered.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Two Canadian SkyHawks interlock their legs to create a giant canopy, which can result in a dangerous stunt. The parachuting act was part of the Friendship Day 2004 festival, here, May 5.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

A Canadian SkyHawk, pulls on the cords of his parachute to execute a perfect landing.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Master Cpl. Brad Gaiger, Canadian SkyHawk, carries the Japanese flag on his way down to the runway.



Courtesy of Canadian SkyHawks

"Just another day at the office," for the Canadian SkyHawks, said Sgt. Christian Binet.

Based out of Trenton, Ontario, "The SkyHawks consist of 17 members from both the Regular and Reserve Forces. As a public relations unit and ambassadors for the Canadian Forces, the team has performed more than 3,800 demonstrations in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia for more than 60 million thrilled spectators," said Sgt. Christian Binet, Canadian SkyHawk.