

Torii Teller

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 29

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, JAPAN

JULY 30, 2004

Rules restrict political activity for personnel

DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials remind members of the military and Defense Department civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

Gone are the days when the military posted troops at the polls after the Civil War, an act that Steve Epstein, director of the DoD General Counsel's Standards of Conduct Office, said intimidated many southerners into not voting.

Today, Epstein said two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DoD directive for active duty service members and the Hatch Act for federal civilians. These rules keep the military out of partisan politics and ensure that the workplace remains politically neutral, he said.

That's not to imply that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. Epstein

see **POLITICAL** Page 5

Viking named Aviator of Year

Pilot joins ranks of astronaut John Glenn; receives ticket to Blue Angels

LANCE CPL. LYDIA DAVEY

Combat Correspondent

Maj. Matthew C. Shortal, pilot training officer for Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 was recently selected to receive the 2004 Alfred A. Cunningham Marine Aviator of the Year Award.

The award was established by the First Marine Aviation Force Veteran's Association in memory of A. A. Cunningham, the first Marine Aviator.

"I'm humbled," said Shortal. "There are a lot of deserving people out there. I think it's a reflection of my squadron and the reputation we've established over the past couple of years."

Shortal credits his Weapons System Operator Maj. Anthony Bolden, VMFA(AW)-225, and his past peers and instructors at Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 and Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 for his success.

The Aviator of the Year Award is presented "in recognition of the most outstanding contribution made to Marine aviation, whether in combat, research and development, weapons employment, or to overall Marine aviation, by an individual in Marine aviation," states www.flymcaa.org, the Ma-



Lance Cpl. Brian Henner

Maj. Matthew C. Shortal, pilot training officer for Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, was selected for the Alfred A. Cunningham Marine Aviator of the Year Award

rine Corps Aviation Association's official Web site. Recipients of the award include well-known aviators such as Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr.

Aviation has long been a part of Shortal's life, he said.

"My dad was an F-4 Phantom pilot, so I grew up around military aviation," noted the Chicago native. "I remember

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INSIDE

King relinquishes reign

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron gets new commanding officer. **Page 3**

Marine moves pawns for Corps

Ground support equipment sergeant on Unit Deployment Program plays chess for fun and Marine Corps. **Page 8**

IWAKUNI WEATHER



Today
Scattered T-Storms
High: 93



Saturday
Scattered T-Storms
High: 91



Sunday
Scattered T-Storms
High: 90

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Marines rescue boy from river

LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE

Combat Correspondent

Three Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office rescued a six-year-old Japanese boy from drowning, July 18, at approximately 5 p.m. at the Kintai Bridge river shore.

Sgts. Mitchell B. Jones and Shaun C. Wood, and Cpl. Randy D. Bocchi were barbecuing near the bridge when they heard a commotion downstream.

"We heard screaming and yelling," said Jones. "We stood up and went over to investigate and were confronted by a Japanese woman of around 50 who said in broken English, 'six-year-old in water.'"

The three Marines jumped into the river and spread out to search for the missing child.

"We didn't know where to go," said Wood. "We fanned out and tried to search as much area as possible."

"We swam across the river and back again," Jones said. "Sgt. Wood noticed an old man on the other side of the river who had jumped in. Sgt. Wood got my attention and I saw the old man lift the child out of the water, however he was being dragged down by the very strong current."

Jones and Bocchi swam back across the river to the old man. Jones took the child in his arms while Bocchi stabilized his neck as they ran to the Emergency Medical Responders waiting for them on the shore.

After rescuing the boy, Jones went back to help the old man who was still in the river and unable to walk. The man was also delivered to the medical personnel.

"I guess we were just at the right place at the right time," said Wood. "I'm happy that we were there to help out."

Wood said they would have been able to respond faster if they had un-

derstood the language.

"We did what we had to do," said Jones. "The undertow was nasty. It pulled myself and Sgt. Wood under, but we did what we had to do."

The Marines were questioned by the Japanese police and thanked by the boy's family.

All three Marines received Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Friday.

2nd. Lt. Andrew Curran, Station deputy provost marshal, said the Marines' actions were both heroic and influential in spreading good will to the local community.

"The spontaneous actions of these brave Marines helped strengthen our commitment and resolve to our host country," said Curran.

"It helped to bridge the gap between our two countries and solidified our dedication to work together."



Torii Teller

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building one, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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 wynkooprw@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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When war becomes a computer game

CHAPLAIN STEPHEN M. COATES
Part 9 in a 10 part series

I am not a computer game aficionado. For those who are, I admire their reflexes and skills. I prefer competitions of face-to-face athleticism – perhaps ultimate Frisbee or tennis. This is not a moral judgment. It is simply what I like.

I did have the chance to spend a week at sea on a fast-attack nuclear submarine. It looked like a computer game to me. At 10 p.m., after ten hours of surface transit, we finally crossed the hundred fathom curve of the continental shelf.

Only the images of the electronic equipment illuminated the control area. The horn sounded. “Dive. Dive.” Within moments we were 500 feet below the surface of the water with thousands more feet of water beneath us.

During those days, I spent some time journalizing my thoughts as I sat near a Tomahawk missile. Is it easier to kill from a distance? If so, is that a good thing? What would our enemies conclude about us should we launch a missile from the safety of this submarine that had lethal impact on their

end? Other than the inherent risk of being “in” the ocean, I felt pretty safe. I slept well. What a difference from the men who served undersea in World War II.

We do not participate in virtual war. Virtual means existing in essence though not in actual fact. There is nothing virtual about real people dying. Killing fellow human beings should never feel like a game being played using the latest advances in technology.

We can become morally numb if we do not acknowledge the true moral weight of our actions. In hand-to-hand combat, the reality of the enemy is obvious.

Long distance warriors must maintain respect for the inherent worth and dignity of their opponents. If we dehumanize our enemy by seeing them only as blips on a computer, we will only have succeeded in surrendering our own humanity.

Our technology allows us to be far more humane through precision. We have a heavy moral burden to fight as clean a war as possible in minimizing noncombatant casualties simply because we can. How ironic that this same technology can threaten our

honor if we are not careful. That’s always the way it is with our values. Honor, courage and commitment challenge us.

Time, maturity, and technology will never lead us to a place of attainment. We will always have to think harder and act nobly in accordance with new challenges. The value of human life endures.

That submarine was incredible. But honestly, here’s what I remember most: I remember a young man, just recently enlisted, who attended seminary for a year before realizing he was not willing to live according to God’s moral law.

I remember a young judge advocate general officer who wanted to know how to deal with conflicting views of truth as espoused by various religions.

I remember sitting with a Sailor who developed appendicitis and had to settle for antibiotics and pain killer while waiting to be first off the boat and into a waiting ambulance.

I remember praying with the captain for his crew and for his leadership. Nothing virtual in those memories – just real people, real choices, real war.

Use of torii as a sign holder not politically correct

CAPT. S.T. UPTON
Public Affairs Officer

When you come aboard the Air Station, you can’t miss it, when you pick up this newspaper, you see it at the top of the front page, and when you receive your power-point welcome-aboard command briefs, most likely the first slide has a torii on it.

The torii, as shown in the picture, has an intended use as an archway into a Shinto shrine. When properly used, it marks the demarcation between the human world and the infinite world of the Gods.

Shinto is an ancient Japanese religion. Starting about 500 B.C. (or earlier) it was originally “an amorphous mix of nature worship, fertility cults, divination techniques, hero worship, and shamanism.” Its name was derived from the Chinese words “shin tao” (“The Way of the Gods”) in the 8th Century Calendar Era.

About 86 percent of Japanese adults follow a combination of Shinto and Buddhism, the other 14 percent are considered to be of Christian beliefs.

So how did we go from the torii being a gateway to the Gods to today’s common usage by the Marine Corps? Well, that’s hard to explain, said Robert V. Aquilina of the Marine Corps Historical Division, “Unfortunately, we hold no documentation in our files which makes the connection between the Shinto conceptualization of the torii, and its modern utilization by the Marine Corps.”

And what do the local visitors to this base think of our

common use of the torii? They definitely have wonderment as to why we hang unit signs from something they consider as religious as Westerners would consider the Christian cross. “I get many questions from Japanese visitors to the base as to why there are so many Torii present on this base and some with (unit) signs hanging from them,” said Torao Okuda, the director of the Zero Hanger Historical museum and visitor center here.

Also aboard the Air Station here, we have the 31st Fleet Air Wing, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces. Do they use the torii as a unit sign holder like almost every other command or building aboard this base?

“Since Japan has more than one religion, to use the torii as a unit sign holder would signify government endorsement of the Shinto religion, and we cannot do that,” said JMSDF Fleet Air Wing 31 public affairs officer, Lt. Cmdr. Hisayasu Hayami.

In fact, the complete separation of Japanese religion from politics did not occur until just

after World War II. The Emperor was forced by the American Army to renounce his divinity at that time.

Overall, the use of the torii is being overused by the U.S. military in Asia and our use of it should be reviewed for not only accuracy of use, but respect for the culture we have to communicate politically (visually), work and live in.

So is this political correctness striking again? Am I attacking something that has been in place for decades? Is every command building aboard this base a gateway between two worlds?

Is this paper really deserving of such a name and symbolism?



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Torii like this one overlooking Lake Biwa reflect Shinto traditions throughout Japan.

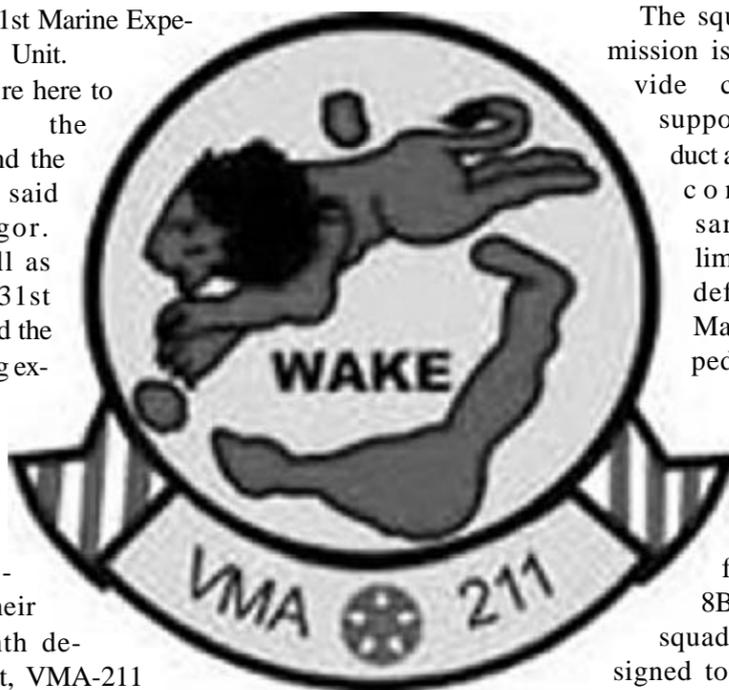
Avengers: back-to-back action

LANCECPL RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"We're here to support the group and the wing," said McGregor. "As well as the 31st MEU and the upcoming exercises in the next six months."

During their six-month deployment, VMA-211 will be training with the 31st MEU and working together with the USS Essex, said McGregor.



The squadron's mission is to provide close-air support, conduct armed reconnaissance and limited air-defense to Marine expeditionary forces.

VMA-211 is only one of four AV-8B Harrier squadrons assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The Avengers were awarded the Ma-

rine Corps Aviation Association's "Attack Squadron of the Year" in 1995 and 1996. The squadron also received the "Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award" in 1994, 1995 and 1996.

Like many other squadrons, VMA-211 has a grand history of worthy contributions to the Marine Corps.

The squadron became known as the Wake Island Avengers because of a heroic battle during World War II.

VMA-211 flew 12 Wildcats aboard the USS Enterprise for movement to Wake Island on Dec. 8, 1941. The Japanese attacked, destroying seven of the 12 aircraft on the ground. Yet soon after, the remaining five planes repelled numerous attacks and inflicted great losses on the enemy.

The Wake Island Avengers are slated to participate in exercises in Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

Marine Attack Squadron 211 rotated crews and pilots, July 20, for another six-month tour under the Unit Deployment Program here.

The Wake Island Avengers first stomped the grounds of Iwakuni Jan. 4 from their home base, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

They came with AV8-B Harriers and an armada of Marines and Sailors from the squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13.

"It is kind of unusual to deploy continuously but a deployment cycle acceleration constituted a squadron 'flight up'," said Capt. Brett W. McGregor, VMA-211 director of safety and standardization.

The Marine Attack Squadron's primary mission here is to provide support

King relinquishes reign

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCECPL DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

Lt. Col. James C. Stewart assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron from Lt. Col. Philip King during a change of command ceremony, Monday.

Stewart graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1988. Upon graduating from The Basic School, he reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola for flight training. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1990.

After receiving his wings and initial electronic warfare training, Stewart reported to Navy Electronic Squadron 129, NAS Whidbey Island for flight training in the EA-6B Prowler. In 1991, he reported to Navy Electronic Attack Squadron 2 and was assigned duties in the operations department. In

1992, he deployed to Iwakuni for six months as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

Upon return to CONUS, Stewart reported to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 as an EA-6B Instructor and the Electronic Warfare Coordinator for the Aviation Development, Tactics, and Evaluation department. In 1995, Stewart deployed to Osan Air base, Republic of Korea as a Liaison Officer for the United States Air Force.

In 1998, Stewart returned to Cherry Point, N.C., as

VMAQ-2 Electronic Warfare department head. In 1999, he deployed to Aviano Airbase for Operation Allied Force, supporting NATO air strikes in Serbia and Montenegro. Stewart flew 87 strike flights in combat operations against defense forces of the Republics of the Former Yugoslavia. In October, he assumed duties as the Operations Officer for VMAQ-2.

In 2000, Stewart reported to Combined Task Force Fervent Archer, Stuttgart, Germany. He served as the deputy director and then the director for Combined Operations. In 2001, Stewart reported to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island as a student in the College of Naval Command and Staff. He graduated with distinction in 2002, earning a Masters of Science in National Security Studies.

Stewart reported to the Aviation Department, Headquarters Marine Corps, in 2002 as the electronic warfare coordinator. During his tour, Stewart directed efforts

involving EA-6B airframe sustainment and upgrades, coordinated EA-6B operational deployments, and served as the department's Science and Technology advisor.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, the Air Medal-Air Heroic with gold star and letter 'V', the Air Medal-Strike Flight with numeral three, the Joint Services Commendation



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Lt. Col. Philip King passes off the colors to Lt. Col. James Stewart during Monday's change of command ceremony.

NEWS BRIEFS

GOSPEL CHOIR OF IWAKUNI ASSOCIATION

The association is looking for individuals that desire to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. If you enjoy singing, praise dancing, playing Gospel music or just would like to volunteer in any form to support this outreach ministry, call Gunnery Sgt. Chambers at 253-2911, Jennifer Jones or Gunnery Sgt. Jones at 253-2097.

COLLEGES ON STATION

The registration for Term 1 for the University of Maryland and Central Texas College is open Aug. 2-13. Call 253-3494 or 253-3631 for details. Class schedules can be picked up at offices of both colleges, which are located on the first floor of the Marine and Family Service Center next to the Crossroads Mall.

CORRECTION

An article appearing in the July 9th edition of the *Torii Teller* titled, "Marines blast away Northern Edge '04," misidentified the participating unit as Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11. The ordnance Marines participating in the exercise were from MALS-12.

Marine band names first female director

First lieutenant is first female commissioned officer in band's 206-year history

SUBMITTED BY
THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

WASHINGTON — On July 1, Staff Sgt. Michelle A. Rakers was commissioned a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, making her both the first commissioned female officer and first female assistant director in the 206-year history of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, the nation's oldest performing musical organization.

As junior assistant director, a position she formally assumed on July 17, Rakers will be responsible for leading a third of the more than 500 annual public performances of "The President's Own"; coordinating the band's educational outreach programs to Washington, D.C., area schools; and assisting the senior leadership of "The President's Own," including the Director, Lt. Col. Michael J. Colburn, and executive officer, Capt. Jason K. Fettig. She becomes part of a tradition of leadership that includes John Philip Sousa, the band's 17th Director and most famous member.

In remarks given at the ceremony, retired Marine Band Director Col. Timothy W. Foley said of Rakers, "She has more than demonstrated her



Staff Sgt. Amanda Conway

Retired Marine Band Director Colonel Timothy W. Foley and junior Assistant Director First Lieutenant Michelle A. Rakers in front of the portrait of 17th Director John Philip Sousa, after the ceremony making her the first commissioned officer in the history of "The President's Own."

tremendous leadership, and that intangible quality that I believe can be taught to conductors passion for the music...you won't... find anybody with more musical talent, more gifted leadership and more innate conduct-

ing ability than she has."

Upon her commission, Rakers said, "I don't take it lightly that I am now an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and ... that I am now an assistant director for the greatest band in the world. I'm

very honored and privileged to have this opportunity."

Rakers joined "The President's Own" in 1998 as a trumpet player, after earning degrees from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and the University of Evansville in Indiana, and performing with the Kalamazoo Symphony in Michigan and the Evansville Philharmonic in Indiana. She quickly demonstrated her talents as a conductor with "The President's Own," leading chamber ensembles in various concert settings for several years. The selection process for her commission was rigorous, with auditions open to any qualified musician in the United States Marine Corps.

The United States Marine Band was founded in 1798. Given the title "The President's Own" by Thomas

Jefferson, the Marine Band's primary mission is unique - to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Compensation, counseling available to veterans victimized by sexual assault

MIKI KAPLAN, MA

Victim Advocate

Marine and Family Counseling Services

Recently, there has been increased publicity regarding the issue of sexual assaults involving active duty members of the military. Regrettably, only approximately 16 percent of the cases are ever reported. As a result, the vast majority of victims never receive counseling and many go on to develop psychological aftereffects of the trauma they experienced.

This can include such things as avoiding places or objects associated with the event, depression, suicidal thoughts, alcohol and substance abuse, recurring and intrusive thoughts, nonspecific health problems, and problems in intimate and interpersonal relationships. Victims of rape, domestic violence, stalking, and physical assault often feel anger, anxiety, embarrassment, fear, and emotional instability as a result of their experiences.

"It is very important for victims of sexual trauma to know there is help available," said Ken Saunders, Veteran Affairs representative from MCB Camp S.D. Butler, Okinawa.

Fortunately for veterans, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) understands and is sensitive to

the issues affecting victims of sexual trauma. First, confidential counseling, treatment, and related health care services are available at VA medical facilities. This care is available to eligible veterans regardless of whether the incident that caused it was ever reported. Secondly, the VA may pay compensation for disabilities or injuries resulting from sexual trauma that occurred while serving on active duty. Disability compensation is provided based on the severity of the service-connected disability. Once a claim is filed, each case is reviewed and a decision is made based on the specific circumstances involved.

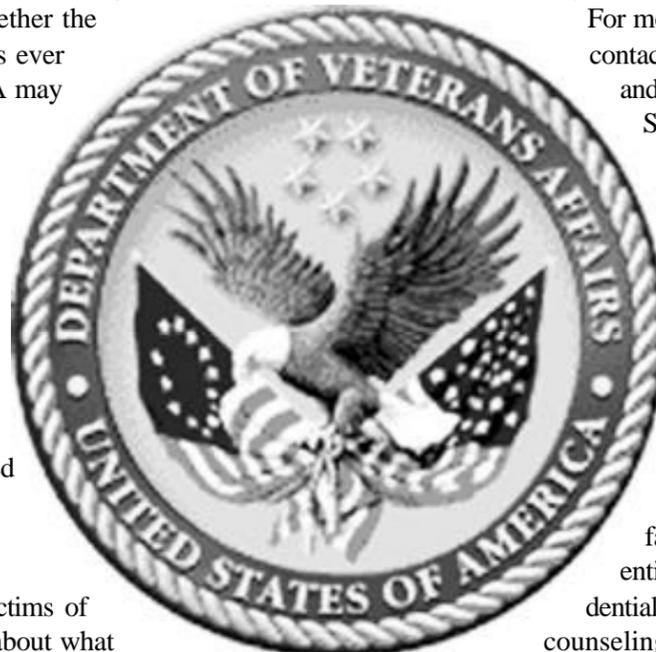
Unfortunately, most victims of sexual trauma fail to talk about what happened to them, let alone seek professional help. They may be embarrassed or may have concerns about confidentiality. They often fail to see any benefit in talking to someone about experiences

that occurred in the past. VA counselors know and understand. They also know problems associated with the aftereffects of sexual trauma can be successfully treated.

For more information, please contact Miki Kaplan at Marine and Family Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Veterans who have experienced sexual assault may also obtain support and information from the VA at 800-827-1000 or the Center for Women Veterans at <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet>.

Base personnel, and family members are also entitled to free and confidential personal and family counseling, substance abuse counseling, and counseling for victims of sexual assault. The Marine & Family Counseling Services office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in room 210 of Building 411.



Lancers carry tradition of great warriors

LANCE CPL LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

Standing tall among history's greatest warriors are lancers – cavalymen armed only with lances, pistols and bravery.

Polish lancers, employed in the service of Napoleon Bonaparte, were some of the most feared cavalry in the emperor's armies.

British, Irish and Australian lancers were also known as fierce and intelligent warriors throughout Europe, North America, Africa and Australia.

Today, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 carries the name "Lancers" as a tribute to the squadron's fighting spirit.

The squadron is also unique because it is the only Marine fighter squadron permanently forward deployed, said Capt. Michael Major, VMFA-212 historian.

"Our overall mission here in Japan is to provide a defensive presence to counter any offensive threats in the Western Pacific towards the United States and our allies," said Major.

Countering threats is something the squadron has been doing for many years, states the squadron Web site (www.iwakuni.usmc.mil/units/212/212.htm).

Since its establishment March 1, 1942, the squadron has participated in every major conflict since World War II – with the exception of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, noted Major.



Photo courtesy of VMFA-212

An F/A-18C Hornet tears through the sky on a routine flight. The Hornet is an all-weather attack aircraft as well as a fighter.

During World War II, the squadron deployed to the South Pacific and "took part in campaigns in the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, as well as operations off of Midway, Esprit Santo, Treasure Island, Russell Islands, Bougainville, Raboul and the Philippines," according to the Web site.

Later on, the squadron also fought in the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Today, the squadron is permanently stationed here.

However, this location doesn't mean any less involvement, said Major.

"On a daily basis our Marines make us incredibly proud to be Lancers," noted Major. "We detach from Iwakuni up to four or five times a year, which means that the Lancers are not only away from their

family and friends in the states, but are also often away from their homes here in Iwakuni."

The squadron is good at meeting challenges, said Major.

"Our squadron meets daily challenges by way of professional and constant training, teamwork, mentoring and quality leadership," Major stated. "On a daily basis, we try to improve our productivity and performance from the day prior in the most positive way possible."

Major credits the squadron's success to its Marines.

"Our maintainers have shown incredible flexibility to be able to pick up and move shop anywhere in West Pac and be as proficient as if they were here in Iwakuni," said Major. "Our pilots are totally devoted to training throughout West Pac in preparation for a counterattack against any hostile threat anywhere."

The squadron's readiness is aided by newer gear, stated Major.

"We recently received newer, higher performing F/A-18C Hornets with many improved systems which will make our squadron's defense capability the best it has ever been," said Major. "Additionally, we have received a new simulator which will allow for better flight preparation and more productive training in the air and on the ground."

The squadron settled permanently at Iwakuni in the spring of 1997.

AVIATOR from Page 1

going as a kid to see the Blue Angels."

Shortal received notification of his selection for the A.A. Cunningham award July 9th. But that date was special for another reason too - Shortal was offered a place with the select group of pilots he had watched as a child.

"These two totally unrelated events both happened on the same day," said Shortal. "I'm very, very excited at the

prospect of acting as the Marine Corps F/A-18 representative for the [Blue Angels] team."

Thirty-six combat missions and training at the Naval Fighter Weapons School- "TOPGUN," and the MAWTS-1 Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course have been instrumental in preparing Shortal for the position.

"It's a big honor to represent the Marine Corps and to get the opportunity to help recruit Navy and Marine

Corps personnel," noted Shortal. "We'll also showcase naval aviation not only to America, but to the world. Approximately 15 million people each year see the Blue Angels perform."

After his tour with the Blue Angels, Shortal hopes to focus on his family and enjoying life at a slower pace.

Shortal has accumulated more than 2,200 flight hours.

His decorations include the Strike/Flight Air Medal with numeral three and

combat "V," Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V," Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, National Defense Medal with bronze star in lieu of second award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with bronze star in lieu of second award, and several unit awards.

POLITICAL from Page 1

said DoD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they choose, and to urge others to vote. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues — but only if they don't do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates. Beyond that, the list of dos and don'ts differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty service member, a rank-and-file Civil Service employee, a political appointee or member of the career Senior Executive Service, Epstein said.

Of all DoD employees, the men and women in uniform have the most restrictions regarding political activity, he explained. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act freed most Civil Service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace that were once forbidden, although many restrictions still apply.

For example, service members as well as government civilians can attend political meetings or rallies. Military

members can attend only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

On the other hand, civilian employees governed by the Hatch Act may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Military members generally aren't permitted to campaign for a political office. Civilian employees are, as long as it's a nonpartisan election.

While the dos and don'ts concerning political activity may vary, Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DoD workers. They can't use their position to influence or interfere with an election. And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle, or while wearing an official uniform.

More details about restrictions on DoD military and civilian employees' political activities are posted on the DoD Web site.

KING from Page 3

Medal, the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

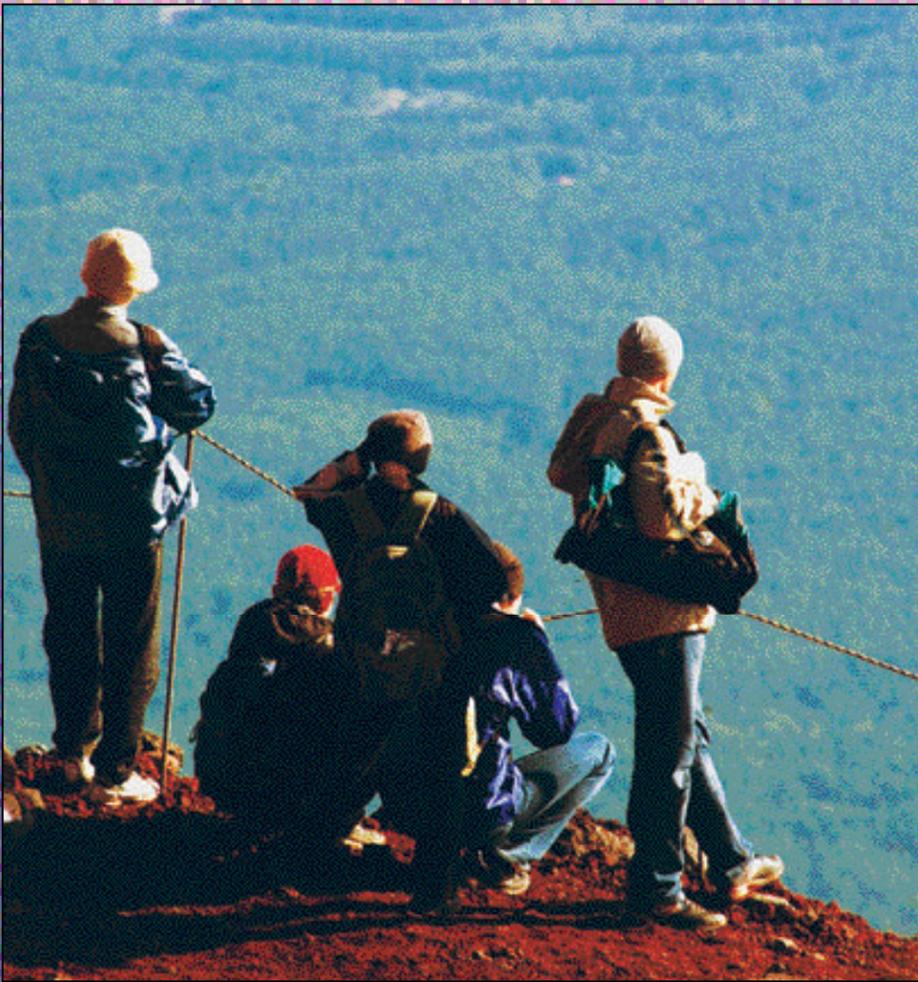
Stewart is married to U.S. Air Force Capt. Brittany Stewart.

King, along with wife Philicia, daughters Jessica and Elizabeth, and son Matthew, will move on to the Marine Aviation Training Support Group in Pensacola, Fla.

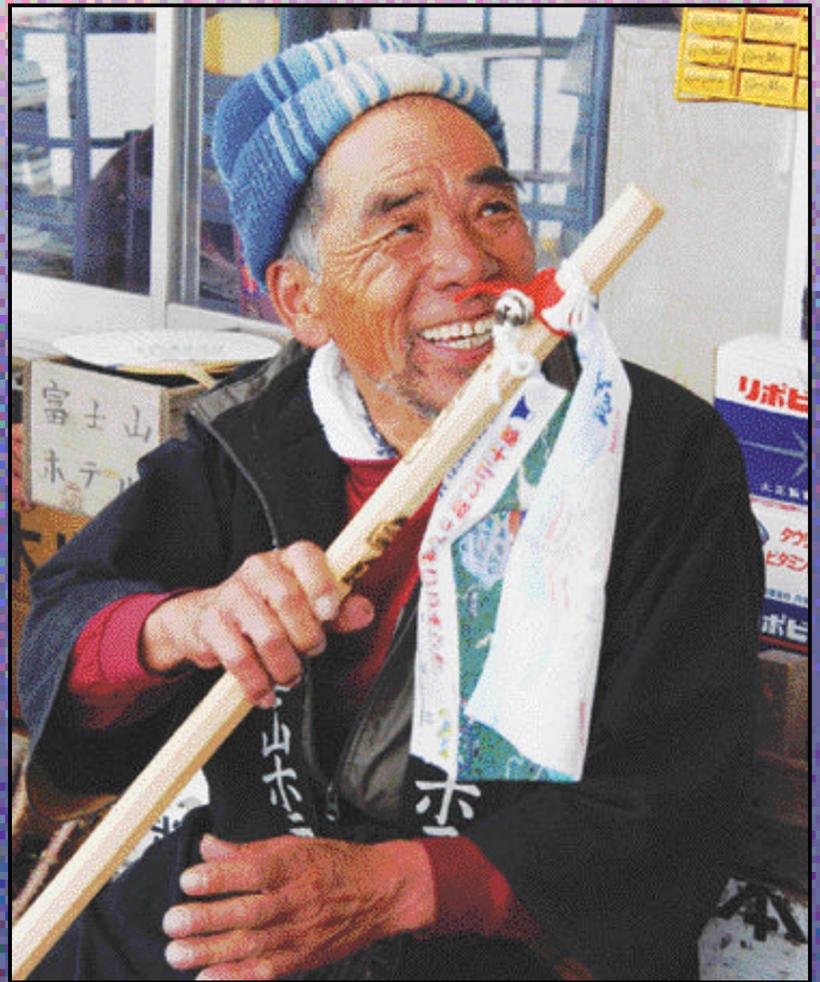
"I think I have an enormous set of shoes of fill," Stewart said. "He has done an amazing job here in counter chemical warfare aspects, anti terrorism force protection training, and supporting ongoing operations for the global war on terrorism. It's an enormous tribute to what he has accomplished here."



Climbing past the clouds, Mount Fuji hikers are privileged to views of stunning scope and beauty.



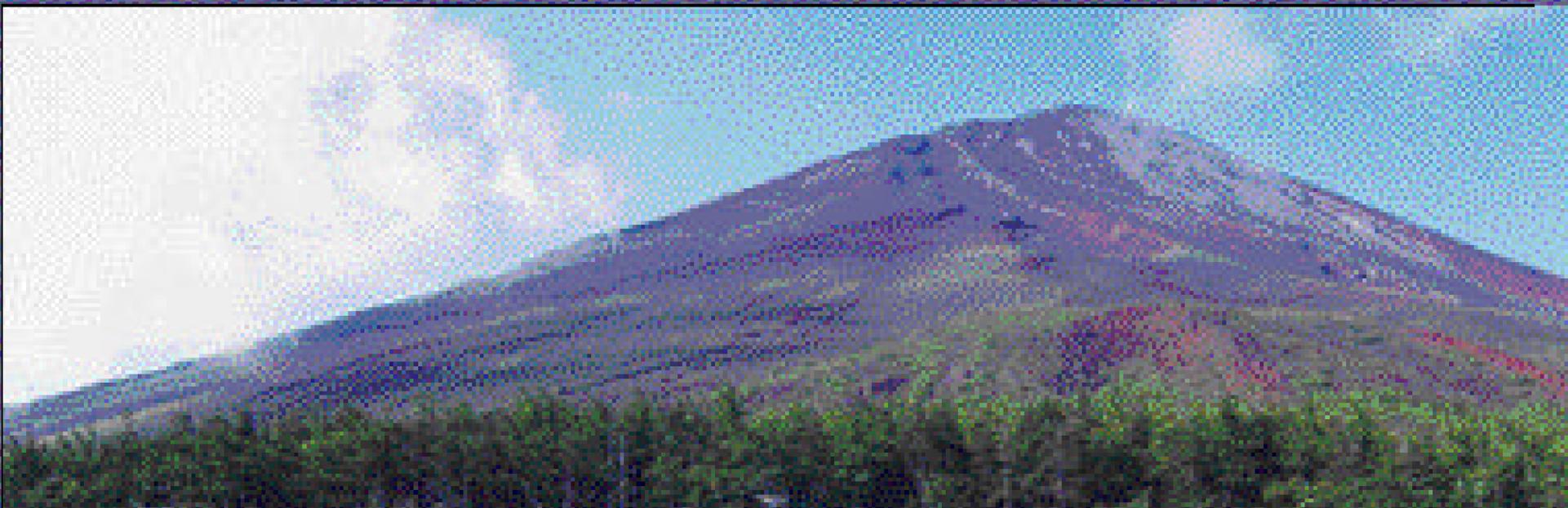
Hikers pause on their way down Mount Fuji to take in another breathtaking view.



An attendant at Mount Fuji's eighth station returns a hikers' walking stick after stamping it as a unique memento.



Hikers of Mount Fuji



Mount Fuji's smoothly shaped appearance belies a steep, rocky climb.

Adventurers quest for Fuji

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

Cold, sandy wind attacks you from all directions, threatening your precarious position atop the volcanic rock, 12,388 feet above the sea. Your ears are numb; your eyes are stinging, yet what a lesser person might consider hell is your heaven. You look out over the horizon to see the sun peaking above distant mountains, painting the clouds with breathtaking strokes of pink and orange. Congratulations, you're on top of the world.

There's a reason hundreds of thousands of people journey from all parts of the world every year to make the approximate six-mile climb up Mount Fuji. As the tallest mountain in Japan, it offers one of the best views on earth. It is not surprising that this almost perfectly shaped volcano has been worshipped for centuries as a sacred mountain and experienced enormous popularity among poets, painters and other artists.

"It's quite a feeling being above the clouds," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Chorle, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron tactical data network specialist. "It's one of those experiences that you have to do yourself to fully understand it."

Chorle recently completed the climb as part of an expedition from the Station.

"It was harder than I thought," Chorle said. "We started off with a lot of energy, but towards the end we were just working off determination."

Despite the high altitude, Chorle recommended the experience for anyone.

"The higher you go, the more strength you need to climb," Chorle said. "Your heart pounds more and you get a little foggy in the brain, but you can definitely do it. There was a group of school kids that passed us up about half way. At their age I was still learning to ride a bike."

The climb was no problem for Lance Cpl. Thomas Vilakis, Marine Aircraft Group 12 special intelligence

operator. Despite unpredictable, cold weather, Vilakis made most of the ascent in sandals and Hawaiian shorts. Sleeping in a small hut near the top of the mountain, he waited until next morning's sunrise to summit.

"The view was breathtaking," he said. "Up there you could see everything." It's worth doing because it's the tallest mountain in Japan and it's a volcano. It's something no one should really miss."

With affordable lodging on the mountain and numerous tours, including three expeditions from the Station a year, Station residents have little excuse to miss the opportunity.

Mount Fuji is officially open for climbing during July and August via several routes. Climbers usually ascend the mountain on the first day, stay overnight at one of several huts near the crater, and descend on the following day.

For more information on climbing Mount Fuji, call the outdoor recreation office at 253-3822.



steep and rocky trail to the summit



Lance Cpl. Thomas Vilakis, Marine Aircraft Group 12 special operations operator, ascends Mount Fuji in shorts and sandals.

Tokyo: cultural heart of Japan

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

Tokyo, a symbol of Japanese economic success, is a sprawling megalopolis off the Pacific coast of Honshu island.

According to the Columbus World City Guide, the city was founded in 1590 as Edo, the capital of the shoguns, the rulers of Japan and commanders of the Japanese army. Edo boasted a vibrant culture. Massive pleasure quarters, theatres and cherry blossoms were immortalized in the Japanese woodblock prints of the time.

Following the fall of the shoguns in 1867, the city was renamed Tokyo and became the capital, heralding its place as the showpiece of the country.

The spirit of the old Edo survives today in city-sized districts of karaoke, cinemas, shot bars and bathhouses. Traditional Kabuki theatre continues to thrive along with opera, ballet and symphonic performances.

"There's a lot of sites to see and a lot of history," said Lance Cpl.

Jonathan Chorle, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron tactical data network specialist. Chorle recently visited the city, touring the Imperial Palace and enjoying some Japanese cuisine.

"I tried some Japanese blowfish," said Chorle. "There's definitely an element of risk to it, but it's a unique Japanese experience that I recommend everyone try."

According to the Columbus World City Guide, the city is home to approximately 60,000 restaurants and the world's largest fish market. From bowls of steaming ramen noodles to slices of sashimi, chefs offer the freshest produce and presentation is elevated to an art form.

Many foreigners may not be inclined towards delicacies so exotic



Crowds swarm around Tokyo's Ginza Avenue, one of the city's massive shopping districts.

to their western tastes, but they'll feel right at home in night club districts such as Roppongi, where bars and restaurants geared toward Americans and Europeans pack the streets.

"There's a lot of western influence throughout Tokyo," said Yoko Seo, Station cultural adaptation specialist. "There are many places where you look at the buildings and streets and you cannot recognize it as Japan."

Seo said Tokyo's wide mixture of people also makes it a center for fashion and marketing toward today's young people.

"Fads always come and go throughout the city," she said. "By the time we start wearing it here in

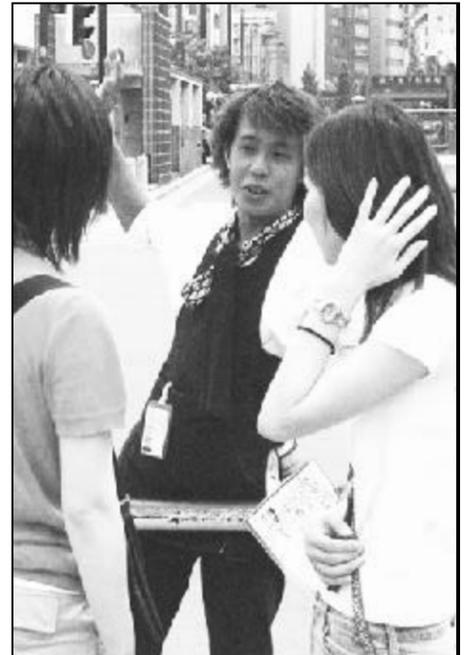


Tokyo's Shibuya district is a center for new fashion in Japan.

Iwakuni, they have already started something more exciting in Tokyo."

Seo said despite modernization, many people still continue to live their lives in the traditional Japanese ways, giving the city a deeply historical flavor.

"Wherever you go, you will see so many different kinds of people," Chorle said. "People are friendly and



A store promoter gives directions to two potential clients.

try to help you out as much as they can."

Whatever the cultural tastes of the Tokyo bound traveler, a rich and diverse experience is guaranteed.

OUT THE GATE

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

Hikari Fireworks

The fireworks will be performed at Mitarai bay in Murozumi, Hikari City, Saturday, 8-9 p.m. It will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. For more information, call 0833-72-1400.

Tokuyama Summer Festival

A festival will be held along

Heiwa Boulevard, near the JR Tokuyama station in Shunan City, Saturday, 5-10 p.m. Events, such as Japanese dance, band performance and mikoshi (sacred palanquin) parade, are scheduled. It will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Call 0834-31-3000 for details.

Kangen Festival and Lantern Parade

There will be a Monarchial Age Festival held at Miyajima Island Monday. A ceremony starts at 4 p.m. at the Itsukushima shrine. Colorfully decorated boats will leave the shrine around 5 p.m. to cruise along the

coast. They will come back to the Nagahama shrine around 8 p.m. to start a lantern parade. Admission fee is required to enter the Itsukushima shrine. Call 0829-44-2020 for details.

Fun Hips Wrestling Competition

The Kono community in Otake City is looking for children and adults to participate in the competitions for the Hips Wrestling in the Ryougoku Summer Festival, Aug. 28, 4:50 p.m. Admission is free. For more information or to sign-up, call the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551 by Wednesday.



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

Mazda SUV, 1993, full size, 4WD, P/W, P/L, sunroof, runs good, looks O.K., only 1 week left and will be turned over to MCCS due to PCSing, make offer, JCI until July 2005. Call Derrick Roby at 253-4755 dwh or 253-2989 awl.

Nissan Terrano, 1991, PCSing, must sell ASAP, new tires/battery, JCI until Aug. 2004, \$500 obo. Call Sgt. Thomas at 253-6465 dwh or 253-2168 after 5 p.m.

Suzuki Escudo, 1994, 4x4, A/C, CD, P/W and P/L, Rhino Racks included, good family car, great for camping and touring Japan, JCI until June 2005,

\$2,500. Call 253-6199 dwh or 32-5259 awl.

BMW 320i, 1989, 4 door, black, road tax is paid, P/W, P/L, A/C, CD player, pre-inspection, no current JCI, approximately JCI will cost \$3,000-\$3,500, \$500. Call Lt. Andy Hayes at 253-3104 dwh or 253-2202 awl.

Toyota Windom, 1992, 4 door, paid \$2,500 nine months ago, owner had to leave POA, JCI until April 2005, \$1,200. Call J. Stroup at 253-6293 dwh or 31-8422 awl.

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., Graco Double Stroller, blue and yellow plaid, front and back re-

clining seats, perfect condition, easy to push, only used to go home on leave, paid \$140 in MCX, \$90. Call Tonya Gogol at 253-4708 dwh or 253-2429 awl.

Misc., Sharp 1,000 watt microwave, \$75. Call Tamra Barker at 253-2273.

Misc., maternity clothes, sizes medium to large; boys' clothes, sizes 0-3T; boys' shoes, 1-8. Call Tina at 253-2498 before 8 p.m.

Misc., GE washer, \$50; light wood computer desk, \$25. Call 253-6199 dwh or 32-5259 awl.

WANTED

Misc., gas grill, washer and dryer. Call Tamra

Barker at 253-2273.

JOB OPENINGS

CHRO (253-6828)

Clinic:
-Social Worker
-Occupational Health Nurse

MCCS:
-Financial Fitness Counselor

Logistics:
-Supply Management Officer

DECA:
-Sales Store Checker (Student Temporary Employment Program)

MCCS (253-3030)
(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)

MCCS Job Listing:
-Secretary, Business Operations Administration, civilian only
-Leisure Travel Assistant, ITT, civilian only
-Catering Manager, Club Iwakuni
-Executive Chef, Club Iwakuni
-Food Service Worker, School Cafeteria, civilian only
-Food Service Worker, Auto Mini Mart, civilian only
-Program Assistant, CDC, civilian only
-Program Assistant, CDC Operations Assistant, Sakura Theater, civilian only
-Computer Operator, I.T.
-Equipment Inventory Assistant, Maintenance, civilian only
-Personnel Technician, Personnel Office
-Personnel Assistant, Personnel Office, civilian only
Continuously Open Jobs
Business Operations Division
Retail Branch:
-Senior Sales Associate
-Sales Clerk

-Retail Operations Assistant
-Store Worker
-Laborer
-Food Service Worker, Auto Mini Mart
Food & Hospitality:
-Club Operations Assistant
-ID Checker
-Waiter/Waitress
-Food Service Worker
Services Branch:
-Retail Operations Assistant
-Car Rental/Service Station Attendant
-Car/Washer/Laborer
-Recreation Attendant
Semper Fit Division
Athletics Branch:
-Rec. Operations Assistant
-Rec. Assistant
-Rec. Attendant
-Lifeguard
Marine Lounge SMP, Sakura Theater:
-Recreation Operations Assistant
-Food Service Worker
Health Promotions Branch:
-Recreation Attendant



MOVIE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Welcome To Mooseport (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Barbershop 2 (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Ghost World (R)
2 a.m. Courage Under Fire (R)

SATURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Like Mike (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Stuck On You (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Lost In Translation (R)
2 a.m. The Mexican (R)

SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Peter Pan (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Majestic (PG)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Love Actually (R)
2 a.m. The Order (R)

MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Cannonball Run 2 (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Against The Ropes (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Old School (R)
2 a.m. 40 Days And 40 Nights (R)

TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Cheaper By The Dozen (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Deep Rising (R)
2 a.m. All About The Benjamins (R)

WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Brother Bear (G)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Along Came Polly (PG)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Hope Springs (PG-13)
2 a.m. Boyz 'N The Hood (R)

THURSDAY

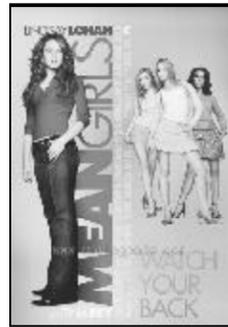
11 a.m./5 p.m. Norma Rae (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Glory (PG-13)
2 a.m. Cold Mountain (R)

SAKURA THEATER



SPIDER-MAN 2

Your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man returns in the sequel to the record-breaking blockbuster movie debut for Marvel Comics' flagship character. Tobey Maguire returns as Peter Parker, the nerd-turned-hero, to face new threats to New York City and the people he loves. (127 minutes)



MEAN GIRLS

Raised in the African bush country by her zoologist parents, Cady Heron thinks she knows about "survival of the fittest." But the law of the jungle takes on a whole new meaning when the home-schooled 15-year-old enters public high school for the first time and falls prey to the psychological warfare and unwritten social rules that teenage girls face today. (97 minutes)



NEW YORK MINUTE

The action comedy New York Minute follows one monumental day in the lives of 17-year-old sisters Jane and Roxanne Ryan, adversaries who begrudgingly journey together from their Long Island home to New York City, where meticulously prepared over-achiever Jane is due to deliver a speech to qualify for a prestigious college scholarship abroad. (86 minutes)

FRIDAY

12 p.m. Spider-Man 2 (PG-13)
7 p.m. Breakin' All The Rules (PG-13)
10 p.m. Anchorman (PG-13)

SATURDAY

1 p.m. Mean Girls (PG-13)
4 p.m. Spider Man 2 (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Terminal (PG-13)
10 p.m. Envy (PG-13)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. Spider Man 2 (PG-13)
7 p.m. Breakin' All The Rules (PG-13)

MONDAY

12 p.m. New York Minute (PG)
7 p.m. Mean Girls (PG-13)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. New York Minute (PG)

WEDNESDAY

12 p.m. Mean Girls (PG-13)
7 p.m. Soul Plane (R)

THURSDAY

7 p.m. Breakin' All The Rules (PG-13)

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. For show times call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule

Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST
Thursday - DLAB
August 9 - DLPT
August 11 - ACT
August 18 - AFCT
August 19 - EDPT

For more information call 253-3855.

CHRO

CHRO Training

■ **New Employees Orientation:** Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 ■ **RESUMIX:** Aug. 11, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 ■ **EEO Update For EEO Coun-**

selors: Sept. 28-29, 8 a.m. to 4 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.

MCCS

CRMC Classes (253-6439)

■ **Local Employment Overview:** Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m.
 ■ **Hello USA:** Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 ■ **10 Steps To Federal Employment:** Thursday, 1-3 p.m.
 ■ **Transition Assistance Program Seminar:** Aug. 12-16, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 ■ **Job Interview Skills Class:** Aug. 12, 1-3 p.m.

Club Iwakuni (253-5416)

■ **All Ranks Hip-Hop And Rhythm & Blues Dance Party:** Today, 8 p.m. in the Club Ballroom.

MCX (253-5641)

■ **Devil Dog Tuesdays:** Every Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., customers at the Marine Corps Exchange 7-Day Store can receive one free hot dog per person.
 ■ **Back to School Sale:** Now through Sunday purchase school supplies at discount prices. Tuesday through Aug. 13 enjoy a sale of apparel and shoes.

Youth Center

■ **School Age Care Day Camp:** Aug. 23-27, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Let the Youth Center know one week advance if your child will be attending. Many activities are scheduled.

Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **Keystone Meeting:** Every Friday, 5-7 p.m.
 ■ **Monthly Birthday Party:** Saturday, 3-5 p.m.
 ■ **S.M.A.R.T. Girls' Meeting:** Sunday, 3-5 p.m.
 ■ **Mirokuno Park:** Aug. 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Single Marine Program (253-3891)

■ **Chichiyasu Water Park:**

Aug. 8, 10 a.m. \$10 transportation. Bring extra yen for admission and food.

■ **Pool & Spades Tournament:** Aug. 15, 6 p.m. Great prizes for first, second and third place winners.

■ **Dinner Night Out - Sushi!:** Aug. 20, 6 p.m. \$10 transportation, plus extra yen for dinner.

Kids' Day Expo

Saturday, 12-4 p.m. at the Crossroads Mall Amphitheater, Main Outdoor Pool and Friendship Park. Bring your child's swim suit. Enjoy free entertainment and air bouncers and carnival food for a small fee. Call 253-5543 for more details.

Women's Support Group

We are planning a support group for women who are juggling roles being a military spouse, struggling with parenting issues, and having trouble when their spouse is deployed. Call 253-4526 for more information.

Healthy Cooking Mexican Style

Aug. 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Open to all the Station residents. Children under 18-years-old must be accompanied by an adult. Class is held in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Kitchen. Sign-up for \$5. Call 253-3696 for details.

Intercultural Couples Group

This group is open to all intercultural couples and is intended to be a fun, positive at-

mosphere in which to explore cultural differences and/or challenges in relationships. We will be meeting every other Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. Call 253-4526 for more details.

COMMUNITY

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 1 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-7 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.

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

Cooperative Chapel Ministries

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

Every other Friday	6:30 p.m.	Shabbat
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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.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Station awards contractors

The Yoshin Kensetsu Company, Ltd. was given an award in recognition of exemplary sustained safety performance from October 2002 to July 2004 competing more than 100,000 man-hours with zero loss-time accidents. The private contractors performed numerous construction on the Station. The award was given to Yoshifumi Sakamoto by Adm. Gary Engle.

Marine moves pawns for Corps

Banshees' sergeant plays chess for Marine Corps and himself

LANCECPL RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

The sounds of the EA-6B Prowler engines blare through the airstrip and echo in the hangars. Depending on the weather, the open hangar could be considered an igloo in the winter or an oven in the summer.

Through it all, Sgt. Sema Sebwe, Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 ground support equipment representative, sits in a corner with his chess board and contemplates the next move of a chess piece.

"The game of chess is like the game of life. One must think of strategies and the consequences of their next move," said Sebwe, member of the Marine Corps chess team.

The Staten Island, N.Y., native has been thinking of his next move since 1997. That was the year the Liberia born Marine first played the game of chess.

"I got into the game while I was in college. When I was first introduced to it, I was like 'Wow! I love this,'" said Sebwe.

What drew Sebwe into the game was the fact that the game made him think deep and hard, and concentrate on the next move.

The allure for his beloved game grew and six years after he moved his first pawn, Sebwe made the Marine Corps Chess Team.

"We played at Kiesler Air Force Base, Miss., said Sebwe. "There were six of us in total that made the team. We played against the Army, the Air Force and the Navy.

"It was highly competitive but a very good experience," said Sebwe.

This is not the first time that Sebwe has played competitively. According to Sebwe, being in the Marine Corps Chess Team mean that one must also be a member of the United States Chess Federation.

"I've been a member for quite some time. Being part of that organization, it allows me the chance to compete against other chess players," Sebwe said.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Sgt. Sema Sebwe, VMAQ-1 ground support equipment representative, spends his free time at his work space playing the game of chess. Sebwe recently returned from Kiesler Air Force Base, Miss., as team player of the Marine Corps Chess Team.

"I've had some really good competition."

Through wins and losses, Sebwe continues to strive to be a better chess player.

"It's more than just a hobby to me; it's a love. I constantly read books and magazines to improve my game. I think of new strategies when I play against opponents or even myself," said Sebwe. "I haven't quite mastered the game ... yet. But I know I will."

Sebwe said, whenever he has the chance, he is always perfecting his game.

"He's been in the squadron for about two years and we always see him play chess. That's all the man does. He loves the game. He even plays against

himself," said Sgt. Asdrubal A. Atehortua, VMAQ-1 power line technician.

"During deployments, it's difficult to focus on a game. Whenever I get back to (Marine Corps Air Station) Cherry Point (N.C.), I spend most of my free time playing," said Sebwe.

"It's a part of me and so is being in the Marine Corps," Sebwe said.

"People don't always picture a Marine being a chess player. I like the fact that I can be a Marine and play chess for the Marines."

More information on chess and playing for the Marine Corps Chess Team can be found at militarychess@yahoo.com.

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

YOUTH SKATE NIGHT

Youth Sports and the Teen Center is hosting Skate Night at the MAC Dome, every Thursday 6-8 p.m. Children under 10-years-old must be accompanied by an adult. All children must wear helmets and wrist guards. Knee pads and elbow pads are highly recommended. Call 253-3239 for more details.

MCAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

The team is looking for players. If there are enough players, the team may compete in the Firecracker Tournament in Kadena, Okinawa in late August. For details, call 253-3239.

BOWLING ELECTIONS

The Iwakuni Inter-Service Bowling Association will be holding elections of officers and board members from Aug 16-22.

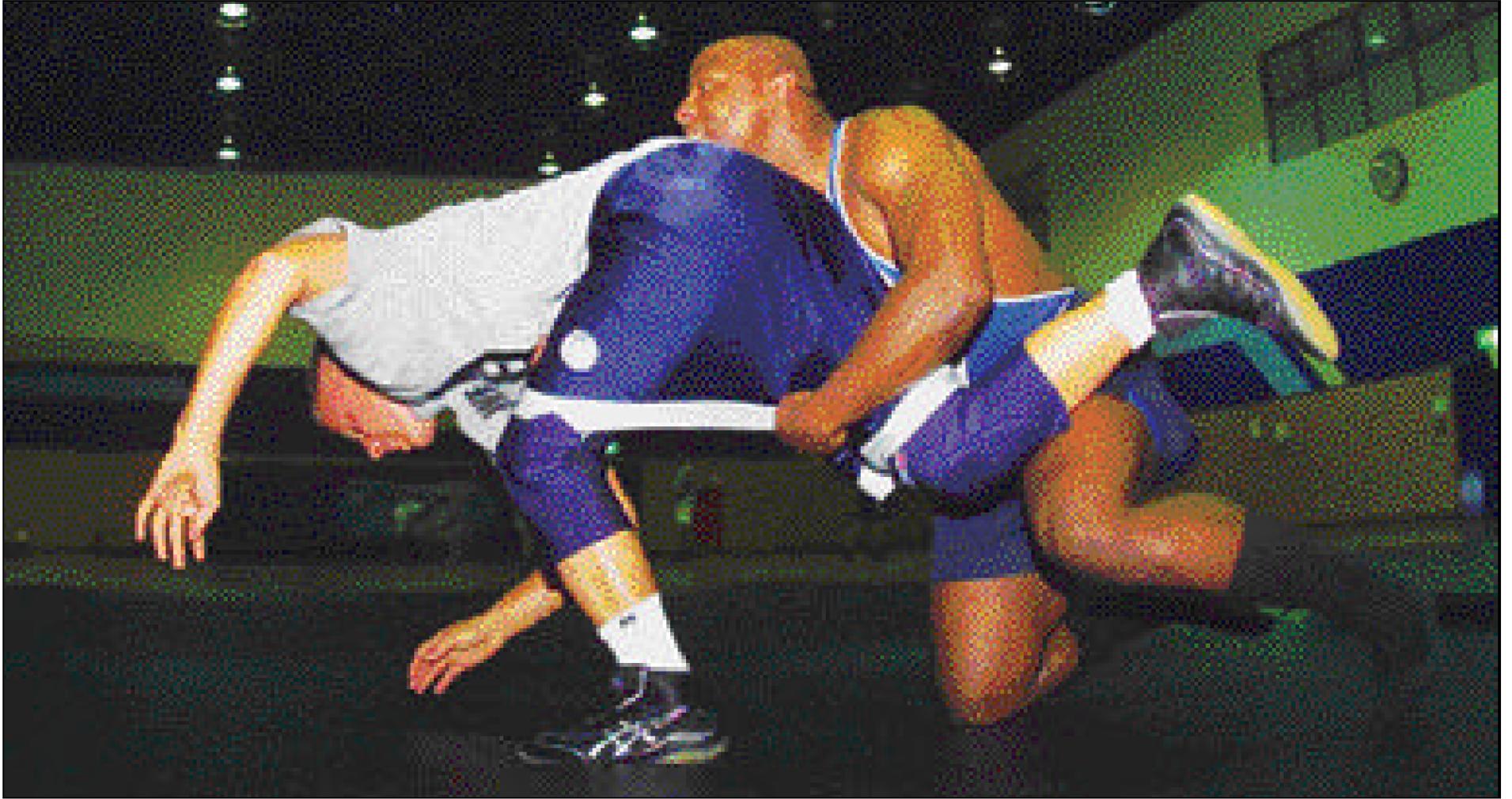
Nominations will be taken from July 29 - Aug 11. Nomination sheets may be filled out at the South Side bowling alley during normal hours. Election ballots will be available for voting during the voting period. Current ABC members may be nominated for board positions. Current ABC members may vote for board members. For further details or questions contact Paul Hudson IISBA President 253-2743.

ANNUAL STABLEFORD TOURNAMENT

Sunday, 7 a.m. showtime and 7:30 a.m. shotgun. Stableford scoring applies. Call 253-3402 for more details.

THREE- TO-FOUR-MAN VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Coaches meet Aug. 10, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room for the tournament on Aug. 21. For more information, call 253-4605.



Allan S. Snow, five-year wrestler, is taken down by Andre C. Dixon, 21-year wrestler, as the two Marines do a speed drill during tryouts for the Marine Corps Wrestling Team.

Marines battle for Corps' top team

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

Two people circle around on a mat, crouched with their arms tucked closely to their bodies but fingers spread and tensed. Then the clinching of their bodies: looking for an opening to get a hold.

The sport of wrestling can trace its origins 15,000 years ago through illustrations found in caves in France. In Babylon, relics depict wrestlers using holds and takedowns much like today's sport. It too held a major place in legend and literature in ancient Greece and was the top contest of the Olympic Games of the time.

"It's a sport very much like how gladiators use to battle," said Andre C. Dixon, 21-year wrestler. "Nobody can help you. It's just you and your opponent."

Present day, it is very much a part of American pop culture. It is a sport which high schools and colleges take just as serious as football or basketball.

And it is a sport that the Marine Corps accommodates through the Marine Corps Wrestling Team.

Tryouts for the team are being held 7-9 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the IronWorks Gym basketball courts.

Sheena Dowd, wrestler for the team and coordinator for the tryouts here, evaluates recruits for the team.

"The Marines that try out have experience, from high school and college and are familiar with the different styles of wrestling," said Dowd.

There are three basic styles of wrestling: Collegiate, Greco-Roman and freestyle. Freestyle and Greco-Roman are contested on worldwide levels. Collegiate is a style particular in North America (More common at

colleges and universities, high schools, and athletic clubs.)

The Marine Corps Wrestling Team not only competes against other services, but it also competes against colleges and universities, said Dowd.

"Marine wrestlers have also participated in the Olympic Games," added Dowd.

But before Marines can serve their country at the Olympics as wrestlers, they must first tryout and attend a conditioning camp in Quantico, Va.

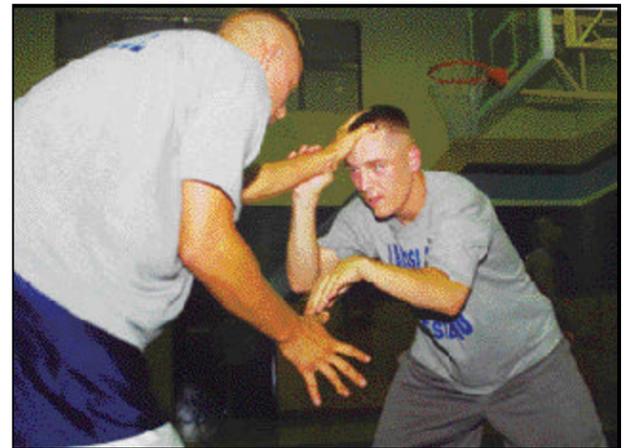
"It's like a training camp where Marines are evaluated," said Dowd. "They stay there, in Quantico, for four to six months and train."

Dixon has been affiliated with wrestling since the age of 7. The 28-year-old is looking forward to be a part of the team.

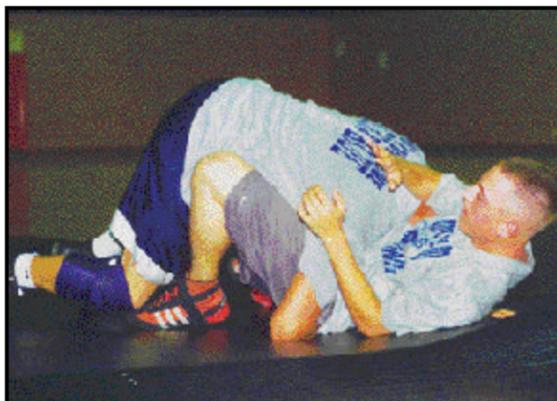
"I love wrestling and it's very much like the way the Marine Corps is," said the New Jersey native. "It's mind over matter. When you're in the ring with someone, you get to the point where your body is tired, it's fatigued. But then your mind takes over. You have to be strong in mind."

For more information on tryouts for the Marine Corps Wrestling Team,

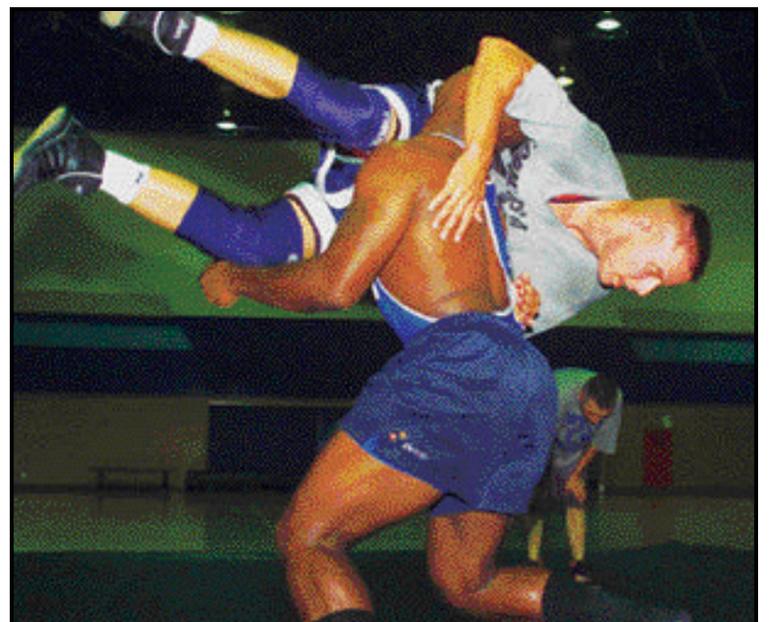
contact the athletics department at the IronWorks Gym at 253-3067.



Allan S. Snow, five-year wrestler, and Brandon J. Zimmer, nine-year wrestler, circle the wrestling mat at the IronWorks Gym.



Allan S. Snow and Brandon J. Zimmer are some of the contenders for the Marine Corps Wrestling Team tryouts.



Andre C. Dixon, 21-year wrestler lifts and slams Allan S. Snow to the mat during a speed drill.