

## Defense Act increases pay, provides benefits

JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed the \$420.6 billion National Defense Authorization Act Oct. 28.

The bill makes up 19.9 percent of the total fiscal 2005 federal budget and 3.6 percent of the gross domestic product. Last year, the percentages were 20.2 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

The authorization act is the second of two bills that had to become law for the Defense Department to operate.

The first is the Defense Appropriations Act, which the president signed into law Aug. 5. The appropriations act provides the money; the authorization act gives DoD the OK to spend it.

The bill raises the end-strength level of the Army and Marine Corps by 20,000 and 3,000, respectively. Army end-strength will be set at 502,000; Marines, 178,000.

In addition, the bill funds a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for service members and eliminates out-of-pocket expenses for housing by increasing the basic allowance for

see PEACE Page 5

## Failure to communicate Public punishment follows troubling weekend

CHL. DAVE BONI  
Combat Correspondent

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron service members were summoned to Building 1 for a public Non Judicial Punishment Nov. 3.

Eleven Marines stood in alphas awaiting the outcome of charges stemming from underage drinking, not having a liberty buddy and being off base after restricted hours.

This was one of many such hearings aboard the Station as more than 25 Marines were held accountable for their actions over what senior leaders are saying was, "a very troubling weekend."

The Marines, ranging from private first class to lance corporal, were charged with violating Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

During the hearing the Marines waived their right to a court martial and accepted NJP.

After being given the chance to speak on their own behalf, all of the Marines somberly accepted the consequences of their actions and apologized for any embarrassment brought to the command, their staff noncommissioned



Photo illustration by Master Sgt. Lesli J. Coakley

**Restriction, reduction in grade and forfeitures of pay were given to 11 Marines for violating the new liberty card program at a public Non Judicial Punishment Nov. 3.**

officers and their fellow Marines.

"I just hope this hearing sets an example to my fellow Marines on how not to behave while on liberty," said one of the Marines receiving NJP.

All of the H&HS Marines received 60 days restriction, reduction in grade and forfeiture one half months pay per month for two months, but suspended for one month.

"This public hearing was not used to embarrass the Marines, but to show that the Squadron is not doing the things they are supposed to be doing," said Maj. James Lukehart, H&HS executive officer and acting commanding officer, at the conclusion of the NJP.

"We know there are ways around the rules and policies, but we are trusting you to conduct yourselves like Marines. The rules apply to everyone," stated Lukehart.

After the brief words from Lukehart, H&HS Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Roland J. Daniel excused all of the Marines except for the non commissioned officers of H&HS.

With the young leaders of H&HS huddled together, Daniel simply asked the question "When was the last time you checked on your Marines?"

"The majority of the Marines receiving NJP have not been here longer than three months. That tells me we are not

see PUNISHMENT Page 5

## INSIDE

### Flu shot priorities

Family members and retirees with high risk will receive the shots.

Page 3

### Marine Corps Birthday field meet

Marine Aircraft Group 12 invited Station Marines to a day of friendly sports.

Page 12

### IWAKUNI WEATHER

Today  
Showers  
High: 66

Saturday  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 65

Sunday  
Showers  
High: 65

[www.iwakuni.usmc.mil](http://www.iwakuni.usmc.mil)

## Combined Federal Campaign makes 'World of Difference' for organizations

CHL. DAVE BONI  
Combat Correspondent

It's that time of year again and Combined Federal Campaign officials are calling on all Station residents to search their hearts, as well as reach into their wallets and checkbooks, to support the charity of their choosing.

The CFC campaign began Oct. 3 and runs until Dec. 3 with each unit on base equipped with a representative ready to take donations.

"The Combined Federal Campaign is an exceptional time during the year to make a significant difference in the lives of many people," said Chief Warrant Officer Gary Parks, 2004 CFC Area Project Officer.

"Last year, through the efforts of the CFC, \$14 million was raised for hundreds of charities. Iwakuni as a whole raised nearly \$126 thousand during that campaign."

According to recent numbers this year, as of early November, U.S. service members and Department of Defense



Combined Federal Campaign

civilians serving overseas have raised over \$4.5 million. This year there are over 1,600 charities to choose from in the CFC Overseas contributor brochure.

Parks said a familiar example of an organization that is supported through the CFC is the Red Cross. Most military and civilian members recognize this organization and have seen the value of its services and resources.

Donations can also be made to CFC without specifying a direct charity.

"One of the primary goals of the CFC campaign is to contact 100 percent of the Iwakuni community in order to provide them the opportunity to contribute to a charity of their choice," said Parks.

For more information on the Combined Federal Campaign, contact your unit/organization coordinator or visit the CFC's website at <http://www.cfcoverseas.org/>.



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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 must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions can be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to bonidw@iwakuni.usmc.mil or coakleylj@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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## Marines break things ... and rules as well

CAPT. S. STEWART T. UPTON  
Public Affairs Officer

A phrase that is regularly used when applying a label to the U.S. military is that we are useful to do two things, 'kill people and break things.'

OK, granted, we know how to train Marines to kill very efficiently and effectively; but how do we train them to break things?

We do this by setting our training goals to be as realistic as possible.

There is a question we ask when addressing the equipment we test and use, "is it Marine proof?" Meaning, if it was, the equipment could continually take a beating in the field environment and function effectively.

Why do you think the tactical PRC-77 (portable, radiotelephone, communication) equipment and ALICE (All purpose, lightweight, individual, carrying equipment) pack were around for so long?

Because it's high-tech replacements, while being state of the art technology, failed in the field environment.

With that said, sometimes when a piece of equipment or process is failing in the field environment, a young Marine comes up with a way to make it work. Sometimes though, this out of the box idea breaks rules or barriers.

For example, attaching armor to a military vehicle to better protect it in Iraq from improvised explosives. The rule would say you are defacing a piece of government equipment, which is a UCMJ punishable offense. Common sense would say that you are doing what is logical and needed to save lives.

Most of the time, we can accept the idea by changing the regulations or finding a legal interpretation to enable the change to take place.

Ingenuity can be found in these types of actions and thoughts and are in very high standing with the Marine Corps traditions of adapting and overcoming ...

However, realizing a loophole in the new liberty card system is not part of this type of ingenuity or tradition.

It did not take some Marines long to realize that the current liberty card system at Iwakuni had a flaw. Its flaw was that it relied upon the personal conviction, integrity and trust of the Individual Marine.

The current system requires you to sign out in the barracks logbook so the duty Marine can monitor your return was within the required hours of curfew for Red Card Holders (must be back between midnight and 5 a.m.).

But, if you don't sign out with the duty, leave the base prior to midnight and then return to base after

0500, nobody knows you are gone.

The young Marines that are doing this may give a laugh, a shrug of the shoulders, and try to classify this in the same area as previously discussed, 'Marine ingenuity,' but it's not.

It's a violation of an order. It's a violation of the intent of that order: to prevent off-base incidents that impact international relations between Japan and the United States.

Prior to the Liberty card program being instituted, we had drunk Marines breaking into Local Iwakuni City residences and stealing from them, driving into houses out in town and committing physical assaults upon Japanese or foreign nationals.

Since beginning the Liberty Card program those have all but ended.

Additionally, a Marine's conduct as such could influence his peers to do the same. If one lance corporal sees his or her corporal sneaking off base all-night and getting away with it, they will be soon to follow.

It runs counter to the good order and discipline needed to run an air station in a foreign country and therefore requires us to hold you accountable for violating the order.

One form of holding Marines accountable for their actions is nonjudicial punishment. A very public session of rank reductions, pay loss and restrictions serves as an effective deterrent for those who may consider violating the order in the future.

So, as we celebrate 229 years as a Corps, I would say that we should continue the tradition of pushing the envelope of ideas for changing equipment and the barriers you see being placed in front of you to make this a better Marine Corps ... we need you to do that.

Just don't use your energy towards damaging the international relations between the U.S. and Japan as well as setting a bad example for your peers by taking advantage of loopholes in the liberty card system.

### Editorial Submissions

*The Torii Teller welcomes your thoughts and ideas for publication. E-mail submissions to Master Sgt. Lesli Coakley at:*

*coakleylj@iwakuni.usmc.mil*

*Author must include their name for publication.*

## CHATTERBOX

### "Why did you join the Marine Corps?"



"The reason that I joined was because of my little brother. I wanted to give him someone to look up to."

Lance Cpl. Xavier T. Cole  
Motor transport operator  
Marine Wing Support Squadron  
171



"I joined the Marine Corps to travel and serve my country."

Staff Sgt. Djahn A. McClellan  
Food service specialist  
Headquarters and Headquarters  
Squadron.



"I joined the Marine Corps to see the world, get an education and to do the right thing."

Lance Cpl. Ian M. Stimar  
Ordnance  
Marine Aviation Logistics  
Squadron 12

# Not everyone gets flu shots

GUNNERYSGT. M.A. ZEID  
Combat Correspondent

It's flu season, but not everyone will be rolling up their sleeve for a flu vaccination shot.

In a press release from the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs, the Department of Defense vaccine supplies for this year are much less than planned - about 1.5 million fewer doses than expected.

According to MARADMIN 474/04, efforts are being taken to ensure the available vaccine is distributed to those who need it most, with focus on those units deployed or being deployed, recruit and training units along with their instructors, and health care workers with direct patient contact. Family members and retirees with high risk medical conditions will also receive the shots.

When more of the vaccine is available, additional units and individuals will receive inoculations.

Those who fall into one of the high-risk categories are recommended to go to the immunization clinic, with their health record, between the hours of 7:30 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 4 p.m. during weekdays.

Those who do not fall into a high risk category are asked to forgo the immunization until more vaccine supplies are available.

According to LtCmdr. Eugene Garland, Iwakuni Branch Medical Clinic, the flu is a contagious respiratory illness, which can range from mild to severe symptoms.

Depending on conditions, anywhere



Amanda Woodhead

**High-risk personnel are recommended to go to the immunization clinic, with their health record, between the hours of 7:30 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 4 p.m. during weekdays.**

from five to twenty percent of Americans get it each year.

If you feel that you have influenza, make an appointment with your Primary Care Manager (PCM) or report to Fast Track (sick call) Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. for active-duty Person-

nel at the Branch Medical Clinic.

Personnel meeting the following criteria are considered high risk and should receive a vaccination:

- Children aged 6 to 23 months.
- 65 years of age or older.
- Persons aged 2 to 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions, such as chronic metabolic diseases, renal dysfunction, chronic pulmonary or Cardiovascular disorders, including asthma, hemoglobinopathies, or Immunosuppression.
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season.
- Residents of long term care facilities.
- Children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Out-of-home caregivers.
- Those with household contacts of children aged less than 6 months.

## Iwakuni receives Marine Corps Food and Hospitality Excellence Awards

MCCS PRESS RELEASE

Club Iwakuni and the Crossroads Food Court recently earned excellent ratings in the Marine Corps Food and Hospitality Excellence Awards program.

The Winter Wine Tasting and the introduction of Kentucky Fried Chicken in the Food Court are the accomplishments that helped Iwakuni's Marine Corps Community Services' win the awards.

The awards were presented to command representatives from throughout the Marine Corps at the annual MCCS Training Conference, which was held in conjunction with the American Logistics Association/Morale Welfare Recreation Conference in Denver, Colorado on Aug. 24, 2004.

The goal of the annual awards program is to provide meaningful recognition to nonappropriated fund food and hospitality activities that have achieved the highest degree of excellence during a fiscal year.

MCCS Iwakuni Director Dale Smith stated, "I am proud of the staff members and managers who worked hard to make these facilities meet the high criteria set forth by the program. We look forward to continuing our pursuit of the high standards our customers expect and deserve."

MCCS nonappropriated fund food and hospitality activities worldwide, such as snack bars, direct operated fast food outlets, clubs, restaurants, mobile canteens, temporary lodging facilities and recreational lodging, are eligible for the award.

To be eligible for the award, individual food and hospitality activities must have operated for the entire past fiscal year, at least break even, and must show



Lance Cpl. Cristin K. Barter

**The introduction of Kentucky Fried Chicken to the Food Court earned Iwakuni's Marine Corps Community Services an excellent rating in the Marine Corps Food and Hospitality Awards Program.**

significant gains in customer service, financial performance, human resources, and operations. Each activity is evaluated against criteria of excellence established by the Food and Hospitality Operations Branch staff. A panel from the Personal and Family Readiness Division, MCCS's headquarters organization, individually evaluates and judges each of the nominations against the award criteria.

According to Carol Garland, Head of the Marine Corps Headquarters Food and Hospitality Operations Branch, "The Excellence Award Program adopts quality management principles by encouraging all activities to achieve excellence, rather than having winners and losers. We are especially proud this year to honor our activities that have achieved excellence and continue to provide a valuable service for our Marines and their family members during times of deployments."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SEALED BID SALE

Iwakuni Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office's next local sealed bid sale will start Monday. Property on sale can and should be inspected at DRMO from Monday through Wednesday. Bids must be received no later than Thursday 8 a.m. Property on sale includes furniture, Automatic Data Processing equipment and military clothing. Call 253-3982 or 253-4089 for details.

### ROAD REPAIR

- Repaving of F Ave. and 2nd St. is scheduled now through Dec. 7.
- Repaving of Zbella St. and the northernmost block of Station St. is scheduled now through Dec. 10.
- Minor curb work will begin Nov. 19, but major repaving will begin Dec. 6. All work on 5th St. should be finished by Jan. 7, 2005.

All roads will be open during construction. The bus stop for the MAC Dome will be the corner of Radford and Zbella; the stop for the Staff Brks will be the corner of Newell and Zbella.

### CORRECTION

In the Nov. 5 issue of the *Torii Teller*, the field mess was identified as set up by Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron when in fact, it was set up by Marine Wing Support Squadron 171.

# U.S. military attacks village with love

By **CL. DAVID REVERE**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Korat** — Twenty Marines and sailors here in support of the 2004 Thailand Incremental Training Program journeyed deep into central Thailand, October 30, to visit and assist the remote village of Pongnakorn.

The day-trip marked the first contact with any foreigners for the rural community, according to Lt. Dan Reardon, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain.

"I feel fortunate to have been able to be a part of an opportunity like this," Reardon said. "One of the things I wanted us to do here was break new

ground. Our thrust was to expose more people to the fact that America cares."

Reardon was able to coordinate the visit with Filipino Catholic missionaries that work in the area. While the villagers were initially shy, he said they warmed up quickly to their offered friendship.

"I believe the village leader was a little apprehensive at first because we were U.S. military," said Lt. Cmdr. Mitch Conover, Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 97 assistant logistics officer. "It helped that we came with smiles and showed that we were really there to help."

The service members cleaned an adjacent lake that serves as the community water source, and beautified the

children's playground, finding time to make use of it with the kids as well.

"By the end of the day, you would think that we were like one big family at a reunion," said Reardon. "I think they look at Americans in a whole different way now — in a way of love and trust."

The villagers weren't the only ones who gained a fresh perspective.

"I came to see the way rural Thais live their lives and have a chance to interact with them," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Kendall W. Nugent Jr., VFA-97 intelligence special-

ist. "They're a content, devoted people. They work so hard, and still do things the old fashioned way. It's like a way of life they just accept."

That way of life includes few material pleasures and almost no health care, according to Reardon.

"Some of the children don't even have shoes," he said. "The quality of life is very low, but they are a happy people that seem to enjoy life."

Nugent said it was an opportunity to remember how a wealthier way of life can be taken for granted.

"They work so hard, but accomplish so little because they don't have our technology," he said. "But we have so much, and want to work so little."

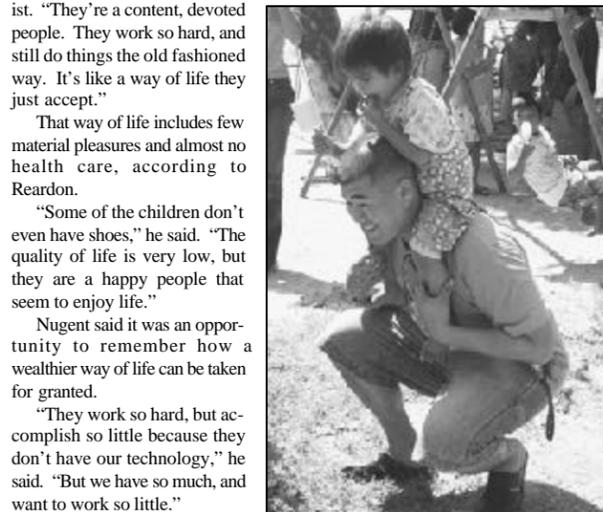
Reardon agreed, pointing out how the opportunity can foster contentment in service members.

"It brings us to realize how fortunate we are, how good our country has

been to us, and the blessings of America," he said.



**Lt. Cmdr. Mitchell Conover, Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 97 pilot, speaks with Thai children.**



**Petty Officer 2nd Class Suchan Yi gives a piggyback ride to a young Thai child.**



Photos by Cpl. Amber Castro

**Marines and Sailors assist members of the Thai village of Pongnakorn in cleaning up.**

## Military children scholarship program enters fifth year

By **BONNIE POWELL**

*Headquarters Marine Corps*

**FORT LEE, Va.** — The fifth year of Scholarships for Military Children is now underway.

Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries, the program has awarded over \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of active duty service members, Guard and Reserve members, and military retirees.

"The Scholarships for Military Children program has become a major community event for commissaries since its inception five years ago," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer for the Defense Commissary Agency. "The program awarded 500 scholarships in 2004 and ceremonies were held in commissaries worldwide in honor of these outstanding students. The industry members who support this program should be proud - and we hope the fifth anniversary year will be the best yet!"

Applications for the 2005 program are available

at commissaries or online at:

<http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

A link to the program will be on <http://www.commissaries.com>, the DeCA Web site.

Eligibility and other information are also available at the program Web site. Applications, which must include an essay on how the heightened awareness of terrorism has impacted the student's life, are due at commissaries Feb. 16, 2005.

At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or

already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2005, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

The scholarship program can also accept public donations at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of nearly 275 commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices - savings worth about \$2,700 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

# Marine rescues woman from flood

## Three cars lost at San Diego Recruit Depot entrance

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**STAFFSGT. SCOTT DUNN**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, Calif.** — A military policeman finishing a 12-hour shift rescued a civilian employee after she drove her car into a flooded subway early Oct. 27, about 300 feet from Gate 4, the depot's main entrance.

Rosa Maria Miranda, a fairly new scullery worker at the recruit mess hall, said she would have drowned if Lance Cpl. Daniel Walker, 27, did not come to her aid. Miranda began employment one month ago through the Association of Retarded Citizens.

According to Walker, around 4 a.m., a car stalled in the flooded subway. The driver safely exited her car and approached Walker at Gate 4. About 20 minutes later, Walker heard screams.

"At first, I didn't know what was happening," said Walker. He said a woman was yelling, "Help me! Please, help me!"

Witnesses from the nearby Vietnam Veterans of San Diego shelter, whose residences and office spaces suffered flood damage, said they heard the same distress.

With streetlights on inside the Witherby Street subway below the Pacific Highway, Walker said all he could see was Miranda holding her purse sitting on water. She was actually on the roof of her Ford Focus, which was submerged in six feet of water. When she had driven in the water, the engine died and the car began floating. Miranda said she climbed out when she felt water around her ankles.

Walker called for backup and MPs arrived to man the gate. With rain pouring, Walker, a husband and father, removed his police gear, swam to a frantic Miranda, and tried to calm her.

"(Lance Cpl. Walker) kept talking to me and telling me to relax," Miranda told local TV reporters



**Lance Cpl. Daniel Walker, 27, a Marine Corps Recruit Depot military policeman, talks to TV reporters after he rescued Rosa Maria Miranda from her car, which submerged in a flooded subway under eight feet of water Oct. 27 near the depot's entrance.**



**Rosa Maria Miranda stands by the spare tire she salvaged after driving her Ford Focus into a flooded subway early Oct. 27 near Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's main entrance. After the car sank, its trunk popped open and emptied the spare and other belongings.**

through Spanish interpreter Lance Cpl. Oscar Gonzalez-Millan. "He saved my life. Without him, I would have drowned because I don't know how to

swim. I thank God and Daniel for helping me."

Walker said there was no technique to his rescue: "She grabbed on, choking me. I thought, 'I guess we're doing it this way.'"

He said a Samaritan proclaiming to be an off-duty paramedic approached the water on the other side of the rising flood, but Walker told him to get back.

The shortest distance to safety was across the water from Gate 4, so Walker swam until he touched bottom and carried Miranda to solid ground.

Other than enduring some cold temperatures, military police said Miranda and Walker suffered no injuries. Police placed Miranda in a heated police car with some blankets and returned to the depot.

"Being at my post - being an MP, being a Marine - we're first responders. That's our job," said Walker. "I just thought someone needed help, and I was the man on duty."

The flooded subway claimed three vehicles despite flashing signs warning motorists that it is "subject to flooding." A measuring stick indicated water levels as high as eight feet at the tunnel's mouth, and towing companies, local police and river rescue personnel helped recover the damage vehicles as rain and flooding subsided.

The National Weather Service reported 2.7 inches of rain Oct. 27 at neighboring Lindbergh Field, bringing October's rain total to more than 4.5 inches, a record high. According to news reports, San Diego recently marked a record 181 days without measurable precipitation.

The depot was built on marshland in 1919, and because the subway is at sea level less than two miles from San Diego Bay, locals think the combination of high tide and sludge moved by sudden, infrequent rains impairs drains and overworks pumps.

PEACE from Page 1

housing. The bill also makes permanent increases in hostile fire/imminent danger pay to \$225 per month and in family separation pay to \$250 per month.

The bill also allows the base realignment and closure process to move forward. The House version of the bill would have delayed the process for two years.

The bill authorizes a number of programs for reserve-component service members.

On the medical side, it provides for up to 90 days of Tricare coverage for reservists and their families who are mobilized. It also authorizes 180 days of transitional Tricare health benefits for reservists, active-duty members and

their families after separation from active duty.

In addition, members of the selected reserve earn a year's eligibility for Tricare for each 90 days of service in a contingency. "If a Guardsman or reservist has served for at least 30 days called up on a contingency operation, then had 90 days of service," said Dr. William Winkenwerder in an Oct. 29 interview, "for each 90 days of service, they're eligible for a full year of Tricare coverage if they sign up for another year of reserve service." Winkenwerder is assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The bill authorizes a new reserve-component educational assistance program tied to the Montgomery GI Bill. The provision has different rates, depending on the length of active-duty service.

It is 40 percent for service of 90 days to one year, 60 percent for one year to two consecutive years, and 80 percent for more than two consecutive years.

The bill also speeds up concurrent-receipt payments for retirees rated 100 percent disabled. In the past, retirees had their pay docked dollar for dollar by the amount of disability payments the Department of Veterans Affairs paid them. Last year, Congress authorized a phase-in process that would eliminate the concurrent-receipt prohibition over a decade.

On the family- and bachelor-housing front, the bill eliminates a statutory ceiling on the privatization of housing. In the program, which allows DoD to leverage public money with private contractors, the services can build and renovate family and bachelor housing.

PUNISHMENT from Page 1

taking care of our own," said Daniel. "Some of the NCO's don't even know where their own room-mates are, let alone their Marines. We are all very tired of it and we are not going to be baby-sitting anymore. The command will throw the book at you."

The strong words expressed by both the XO and sergeant major explains the seriousness of the problems recently arising.

"Just be smart when you leave the gate and take care of your Marines. It's not hard. But instead, we have too many selfish Marines here and that has to change," said Daniel.

### Commandant's birthday message

Two hundred and twenty-nine years ago, the second continental congress established a Corps of Marines to fight for a democratic people's independence.

Since then countless Marines have raised their hand and sworn to defend our nation's freedoms and preserve its liberties. This year's anniversary again finds marines engaged throughout the globe for the same noble purposes. The bravery, heroism, and selflessness of all Marines - wherever they are serving - have added significantly to our rich legacy and measured up to the high standards that have come to epitomize all who wear the eagle, globe, and anchor.

The current battlefields of the global war on terror are linked to the storied campaigns of our past by an unbroken tradition of proud and loyal service. At New Providence, Chapultepec, Belleau Wood, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, Con Thien, Kuwait, and now in places like Fallujah, Marines have consistently demonstrated a dedication to duty, a commitment to warfighting excellence, and a devotion to each other that has instilled a fierce determination to overcome seemingly impossible challenges. Our warrior ethos is and will continue to be the Corps' hallmark.

The fortitude and sacrifices of Marines and their families have been vital in protecting our nation from those who would do us harm. Whether preparing and sustaining our agile force or engaged in battle, the esprit de corps, tireless energy, calm courage, and inspired leadership of Marines continue to make a monumental difference in this world. Your unselfish dedication and significant accomplishments - demonstrated repeatedly over this past year in numerous places such as the Anbar province of Iraq, Afghanistan, the horn of Africa, Haiti, and in the crucial job here at home supporting our deployed forces - are deeply respected and valued by your fellow Americans.

Marines, as we celebrate with friends and families the founding of our beloved corps, you should take pride in our long history of distinguished service to this great nation and its citizens. I ask you to remember especially the sacrifices of our fallen and wounded comrades. Finally, rededicate yourselves to taking care of one another and ensuring we remain the finest warfighting organization in the world.

Happy birthday Marines, Semper Fidelis, and keep attacking!

M.W. Hagee, General  
U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

# Marines Celebrate 229



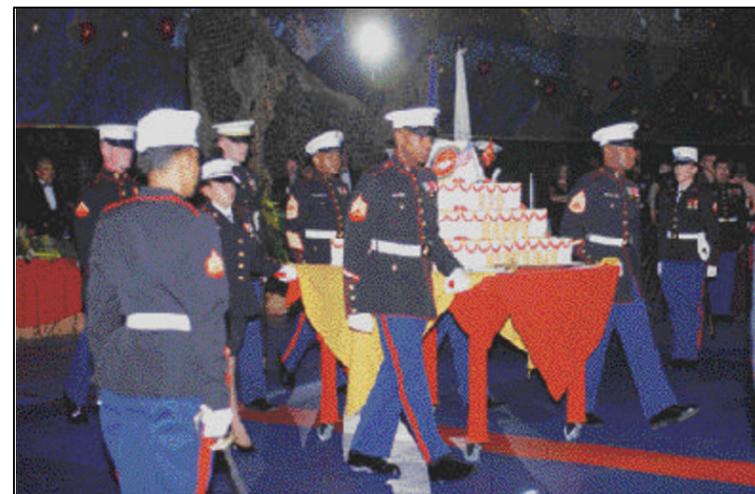
Col. Michael A. Dyer cuts the traditional birthday cake during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Birthday Ball, Nov. 4.



Cpl. Michelle D. Vinson, Crash Fire Rescue crew member, sang the Japanese and U.S. National Anthems for all three Station balls.



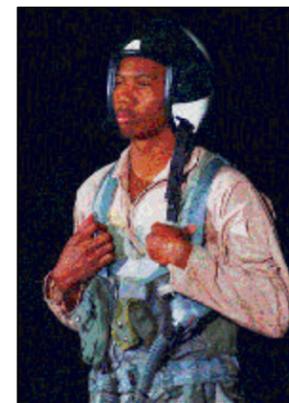
Marine Corps Community Services unveiled this specially made Eagle, Globe and Anchor decoration crafted from brass and copper.



The cake cutting detail marches the birthday cake through the line of escorts.



Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey A. Green, III Marine Expeditionary Force Sergeant Major, was the guest of honor for the H&HS and Marine Aircraft Group 12 Birthday Balls.



Marines, dressed in period uniforms, provided a living history of the Marine Corps from 1775 to the present. (LEFT): Cpl. Erick V. Lamb, represents a Vietnam era pilot. (RIGHT): Lance Cpl. Reynaldo Guajardo represents Marines of today.

# Try your hand at chopsticks

*Adapting to the Japanese style of eating can be done by learning four easy steps*

COMPILED BY  
Torii Teller Staff

Culture shock is an unavoidable part of moving to a foreign country. There are many things that newcomers will have to adapt to while being stationed in Japan. One of which is eating in a Japanese restaurant and using chopsticks.

There are two different types of chopsticks, both of which can be used in the same way.

"Waribashi," are the plain disposable chopsticks found in most inexpensive restaurants.

"Hashi," are the more expensive decorated version of chopsticks.

Using either type of chopsticks can be a challenge, but following a few easy steps can make a Japanese dining experience a whole lot easier.

The first step is to cradle a single chopstick in the "V" part of your hand, between the thumb and forefinger. Hold this chopstick between the crook and the finger next to the pinky finger.

The upper chopstick is held like a pencil, using the thumb and first two fingers. The tips of the chopsticks are used to pick up the food by opening and closing the chopsticks using the first two fingers to manipulate the movement.

When using chopsticks properly, there are a few customs that also need to be learned.

First, you should never stand your chopsticks upright in a meal. This originates from a Japanese custom in which a bowl of rice is set out with chopsticks standing upright for the deceased.

Also, never pass food from chopsticks to chopsticks - this is only done at funerals where people are cremated. Family members using chopsticks pass the deceased

bones from one another and place them into an urn.

Between each bite, chopsticks can be set down, however here too there is a proper way: place the

chopsticks together and place the food end of the chopsticks on the edge of the plate of food and rest the bottom edges on the table.

Also, keep the paper wrapper the chopsticks come in to put them back in when finished with the meal. If the wrapper is lost or destroyed, place the chopsticks to the right of the plate or below it.

Once you've learned both the etiquette and how to use chopsticks, eating in Japan can become much easier. So while enjoying the local cuisine, try your hand at chopsticks.

❶ The lower stick goes in the "V" between the thumb and forefinger.

❷ The upper stick is held by the thumb and first two fingers.

❸ Sticks should extend 1/3 above the hand, 2/3 below with the ends even.

❹ Sticks are opened and closed by moving the first two fingers.



**First, you should never stand your chopsticks upright in a meal. Also, never pass food from chopsticks to chopsticks.**



## OUT THE GATE

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

### Kintai Bridge Maple Festival

A festival is held near the Kintai Bridge now through Nov. 21. Various events are scheduled during this period. There is a pressed flowers display at Iwakuni Chokokan museum now through Nov. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bonsai trees display at Kikkawa Museum Saturday through Nov. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Noh plays

and Japanese instruments performances will take place at the Noh stage in front of the Kikko Shrine Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A market will be held by the Kikko Shrine Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 20 and 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Some of the events may be cancelled in case of rain. Call 41-1477 for more details.

### Yamaguchi Motor Festival 2004

There will be an automobile show at Shunan City Sports Center's main arena Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 100 imported and Japanese cars are displayed. An admission is required. Call 0834-32-

1385 for further information.

### Hiroshima Castle Events

Visitors can view approximately 2,000 pots of chrysanthemum, at the Hiroshima Castle in Hiroshima City now through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 082-221-7512 for details. There will be Kagura performance, a Japanese sacred music and dance Saturday, starting at 5 p.m., and a market Saturday, noon to 7:30 p.m. They may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Call 082-221-6516 for more information. Admission for the events are free.

## 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

**Honda Odyssey**, 1995, 8 passenger van, blue, 4 wheel drive, excellent condition, very clean, JCI until July 2006, \$3,000. Call Tim at 253-6853 dwh or 253-2804 awh.

**Nissan Skyline GTS-T**, 1991, 2 door, black, automatic, sports exhaust, HKS blow off valve, Apexi air intake air filter, engine mount bar, engine timer, A/C, P/W, good car and deal, JCI until July 2006, \$2,500 obo. Call Leroy at 253-5509 dwh or 090-6438-0685.

**Suzuki Bandit**, 1994,

GSF400, 18,000km, new tank, rebuilt carbs, fair condition, fun bike, JCI until summer 2005, \$950. Call 1st Lt. Pedden at 253-4319 dwh or 253-2634 awh.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc.**, maternity clothes; misc. toys; baby doll play pen; high chair; stroller, swing; kids' washing machine/dryer; girls' clothes, 0-2T; boys' clothes, 0-6 months. Call Kara at 253-2266.

**Misc.**, black futon with futon pad and cover, \$100. Call Jerome at 253-6367 dwh or 090-6861-5498.

### JOB OPENINGS

**Chaplains Office (253-6460)**  
-Gospel Choir Director  
-Non-Denominational Music Director

**CRMC (253-6439)**  
Native American Management Services, Inc. (NAMS) is seeking a part time Career Transition Workshop Facilitator/Trainer to work at Iwakuni. E-mail resume to TAP Recruiter at ssauntry@namsinc.org

World IT Solutions (WITS) is seeking a full-time Customer Service Representative (Techni-

cal) to work at Iwakuni. Interested candidates should forward resumes and salary requirements to Semica Jones at fareastjobs@witsllc.com.

**CHRO (253-6828) MCCS:**  
-Supervisory Education Services Specialist  
**Logistics:**  
-Supply Management Officer

**Facilities:**  
-Interdisciplinary Engineer  
**S-6:**  
-Electronic Technician

**Clinic:**  
-Occupational Health Nurse

### MCCS (253-3030)

(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)

#### MCCS Job Listing:

-Physical Security Supervisor, Executive Administration Office  
-Senior Loss Prevention Agent, Executive Administration Office, In-house only

-Merchandise Manager, Merchandising, civilian only  
-Retail Area Supervisor, Main Complex, civilian only

-Store Worker, Main Complex, civilian only  
-Beautician, Beauty Shop  
-Wood Hobby/Crafts Supervisor, Wood Hobby Shop/Arts & Crafts, ci-

vilian only

-Auto Hobby Shop Supervisor, Auto Hobby Shop, civilian only  
-Club Operations Assistant, Club Iwakuni, civilian only

-Food Court Operations Assistant, Food Court -Desk Clerk Leader, Bachelor Housing, civilian only

-Operations Assistant, Youth Center (School Age Care), In-house only

-Operations Assistant, Single Marine Program  
-Secretary, Single Marine Program  
Go to [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) for a complete job listing.

**MCT**

### MOVIE SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Brother Bear (G)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Lady Killers (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Kill Bill: Volume 2 (R)  
2 a.m. Love Actually (R)

**SATURDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Shrek 2 (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Stepford Wives (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Taking Lives (R)  
2 a.m. Dawn Of The Dead (R)

**SUNDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. The Rescuers (G)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Batman And Robin (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Eternal Sunshine Of Spotless Mind (R)  
2 a.m. A Man Apart (R)

**MONDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Johnson Family Vacation (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Alamo (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Monster (R)  
2 a.m. Phone Booth (R)

**TUESDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Intolerable Cruelty (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Raising Helen (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Troy (R)  
2 a.m. Midnight Run (R)

**WEDNESDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Hot Shots! (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Van Helsing (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Soul Plane (R)  
2 a.m. Deuces Wild (R)

**THURSDAY**

11 a.m./5 p.m. Garfield (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Dodgeball (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Cold Mountain (R)  
2 a.m. Twelve Monkeys (R)

## SAKURA THEATER



**RAY**  
This is a musical biographical drama of American legend Ray Charles. Born in a poor town in Georgia, Ray Charles went blind at the age of seven shortly after witnessing his younger brother's accidental death. Inspired by a fiercely independent mother who insisted he make his own way in the world, Charles found his calling and his gift behind a piano keyboard. (153 minutes)



**WIMBLEDON**  
Peter is an unlucky guy, scoring "love" both professionally and personally. Seeded near the bottom of the world tennis ranks, he manages to score a wild card, allowing him to play in the prestigious Wimbledon tournament. There, he meets and falls in love with a tennis star Lizzie. Fueled by a mixture of his newfound luck, love and on-court prowess, Peter works his way up the ranks of the tournament players. (100 minutes)

**FRIDAY**

7 p.m. Ray (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Resident Evil (R)

**SATURDAY**

1 p.m. Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow (PG)  
4 p.m. Wimbledon (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Mr. 3000 (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Wicker Park (PG-13)

**SUNDAY**

4 p.m. Cellular (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Ray (PG-13)

**MONDAY**

7 p.m. Wimbledon (PG-13)

**TUESDAY**

7 p.m. Vanity Fair (PG-13)

**WEDNESDAY**

7 p.m. Mr. 3000 (PG-13)

**THURSDAY**

7 p.m. Papparazzi (PG-13)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

### Test Schedule

**Tuesdays/Fridays** - CLEP, DSST  
**Wednesday** - ASVAB  
**Thursday** - EDPT  
**November 22** - SAT  
**November 29** - ACT

For more information call 253-3855.

## HEALTHCARE

### Tobacco Cessation Mini Health Fair

Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crossroads Mall. Call 253-6359 for more details.

## MCCS

### CRMC Classes (253-6439)

■ **Teaching English Tips:** Thursday, 9-10:30 a.m.  
 ■ **Basic Resume Writing:**

Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

■ **Hello U.S.A.:** Every Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This workshop is designed to assist foreign-born spouses who are making a transition to American culture and military lifestyle.

### Club Iwakuni

■ **NCO Appreciation Night:** Tuesday, 5 p.m. in the Staff NCO Club. Uniform of the day required.

### MCX (253-5641)

■ **Oscars Gift Shop Sale:** Now through Nov. 20 receive 10 percent off kimono, happi coats, yukata and sword sets.

### MCFTB (253-3754)

■ **Spouses Of Deployed Service Members Get-together Picnic:** Today, noon to 1 p.m. at the picnic area across from

Building 411. If it rains, the picnic will be at Yujo Hall. Spouse and children are welcome. Bring your lunch. Beverages will be provided. Issues covered at the initial meeting in October will be discussed.

■ **Key Volunteer Basic Training:** Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 253-3754 at Yujo Hall.

### Single Marine Program (253-3585)

■ **Fukuoka Sea Hawks Town:** Saturday, \$20 transportation. Bring extra yen for lunch and shopping.

### School Age Center (253-4769)

■ **Mikan Picking On Oshima Island:** Monday, 4 p.m. Open to members enrolled in the School Age Center Program. Call 253-5900 to sign-up.

### Youth & Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **SMART Girls Meeting:** The meetings are held 3-5 p.m. 10 to 12-year-old girls meet every Monday and teenage girls meet Wednesdays. Come on over for free food and fun. The club is open to girls in the fifth through 12th grade.

### Craft Fair & Flea Market

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MAC Dome. Open to the Station residents, JMSDF, master

labor contractor and indirect hire agreement workers, and their guests.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed at the following

■ Special Events (253-6103)  
 Retired Activities Office (253-6250)

■ American Red Cross (253-4525)

■ Matthew C. Perry Elementary and High schools (253-3447 and 253-5448)

■ MCCS Iwakuni School Age Center and Youth & Teen Center (253-4769 and 253-6454)

■ Youth Sports (253-3239)

■ Boy & Girl Scouts Of America (253-3505)

■ Youth Activities (253-4803/253-5549)

■ Child Development Center (253-5584)

### Weekend Pool Tournaments

Cash prizes are given away at the Marine Lounge 9-ball Tournament held every Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8-ball Tournament held every Sunday at 2 p.m.

SOFA status individuals who are 18 years or older, in addition to all service members, are invited to compete. The \$5 entry fee covers all pool fees during the tournament. Visit the Marine Lounge on the second floor of Crossroads Mall or call 253-5368 for more details.

■ **SMART Girls Meeting:** The meetings are held 3-5 p.m. 10 to 12-year-old girls meet every Monday and teenage girls meet Wednesdays. Come on over for free food and fun. The club is open to girls in the fifth through 12th grade.

SOFA status individuals who are 18 years or older, in addition to all service members, are invited to compete. The \$5 entry fee covers all pool fees during the tournament. Visit the Marine Lounge on the second floor of Crossroads Mall or call 253-5368 for more details.

### Marine Readers Are Leaders

Marine Readers are Leaders for the month of October are

Staff Sgt. Michael Leet (Ordinance) and Staff Sgt. Hayden Vesprey (MALS-12). TeenReaders are Leaders winners for October are Stephen (age 15) and Martha (age 11) Granderson.

## COMMUNITY

### Iwakuni Dog Club

A dog club starts to promote responsible ownership, care for animals and training opportunities. Bring your dog, your training experience and some enthusiasm. Contact 1st Lt. Pedden at 253-4319 dwh or 253-2634 awh, or Gunnery Sgt. Borning at 253-6366 dwh.

### 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.

### 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.



Bikers race to the finish line in the last event of Energy Awareness Week, Oct. 30. Station Energy Conservation officials hosted the Energy Awareness Week which culminated in a 5k run, a kids 5k bicycle race and a 38k bicycle race.

# Racing for Energy Awareness

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
 CHIEFPETTY OFFICER RICHARD ROBINSON  
 Energy Conservation Manager

Station Energy Conservation officials hosted the Energy Awareness Week which culminated in a 5k run, 38k bicycle race and a kids 5k bicycle race Oct. 30.



Receiving trophies for the kids events were: Front row from left to right, David Kuhn, Billy Robinson, Trevor Vann, Gregorio Velasquez and Michael Hoisington. Back row from left to right, Yuuki Nakashita Charlie Robinson, Freddie Jones, Mike Boland and Marcus Crawford.

Twenty-seven runners came out to run against people their own age and mingle with runners of other nationalities. The fastest runner of the day was Toshihiro Miyamoto of the Facilities Department, Utilities Division with a time of 15:57. The fastest female runner was Michelle Vinson, Operations Department, with a time of 21:16.

Twelve youngsters showed up eager to outpeddle their counterparts for the kids 5k bicycle race. Although it was kind of wet and the roads had some puddles here and there, the kids had a great time. The overall winner was Charlie Robinson followed by Mike Boland and Yuki Nakashita. Yuki was also the overall female winner. For ages 7 to 9, the winners were Michael Hoisington, David Huhn and Billy Robinson.

Forty-Seven bike enthusiasts participated in the Energy Awareness Week bike race that consisted of racing four laps around the Air Station.

Trophies were presented to the top three Overall male and female winners as well as the top three male and females in each age group that participated.

Men's overall winners were Toshiro Miyamoto, 15:51; Hironobe Moriguhi, 16:00; and Bill Schmidt,



Mamora Okada receives his trophy from Kazu Eueki. In the background, preparing trophies, is Toshihiro Miyamoto.

16:06. The women's overall winners were Michelle Vinson, 21:16; Jennifer Medillan, 21:31; and Hiromi Del Prete, 24:19.

In the age groups, first place honors went to Michael Knorps, 16-19-year-olds; Frank Byers, 20-29-year-olds; Karl Fischback, 30-39-year-olds; Fujita Toshi, 40-49-year-olds; and Bill Phillips, 50 and better.

## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### FALL FOUR-MAN SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, 7:30 a.m. show time, 8 a.m. shotgun start. Call 253-3402 for more information.

### YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL

The opening ceremony for youth flag football is Saturday at Penny Lake Field Number 2. For more details, call 253-3239.

### SIX-MAN INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Coaches meet Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. The tournament takes place Nov. 27, 9 a.m. Call 253-5777 for further information.

### GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

Nov. 19, check-in is at 10:30 a.m. Walk or run 5 or 10 kilometers. It

begins at IronWorks Gym at 11:30 a.m. Join others in a run dedicated to a tobacco-free lifestyle. Open to the Station residents, JMSDF, master labor contractor and indirect hire agreement workers, and their families. Sign-up is free. Call 253-6883 for more details.

### 16TH ANNUAL JAPANESE AMERICAN GOODWILL DUATHLON

Race your friends for a trophy Nov. 28, 9 a.m. The Duathlon consists of a five-kilometer run, 28-kilometer bike race, and second five-kilometer run on the Station. Open to the Station residents, family members, and local residents. SOFA status individuals sign-up before Monday for \$15, \$30 for two-man teams, and \$45 for three-man teams. Team participation is only allowed for SOFA status individuals. Master labor contractor and indirect hire agreement workers sign-up for ¥3,000 before Monday. The event kicks off at the IronWorks Gym. Call 253-5777 for further information.

## Thank you for caring



PFC Lukas J. Blom

From Oct. 30 to Nov. 8, approximately 70 people donated relief supplies that filled 50 big and small boxes. They were mailed to the disaster countermeasure headquarter office of Nagaoka City, Niigata Prefecture. The United States offered an additional \$100,000 on Friday to aid people in Niigata Prefecture who have been affected by a series of powerful earthquakes since Oct. 23.

The money will be used mainly for operations to transport disaster relief supplies to the victims, who include more than 40,000 people evacuated from their homes.

## 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

## 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

### Seventh-Day Adventist

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

### Jewish

Every other Friday  
 6:30 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.

# Healthy competition builds camaraderie at Marine Corps birthday field meet

LANCE CH. CRISTIN K. BARTER  
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Aircraft Group 12 hosted a motivational run and cake cutting ceremony to begin a Marine Corps field meet at Penny Lake Monday.

The commander's intent was to have an event where Marines and Sailors could build camaraderie amongst each other.

The event began at 7:30 a.m. where



PFC Lukas J. Blom

**Lance Cpl. Levi Araiza, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Ground Support Equipment, does a somersault to get his mind back on track from the dizzy-izzy. "It's tougher than it looks," said Araiza.**



Master Sgt. Lesli J. Coakley

**Col. Howard F. Barker and Sgt. Maj. Robert F. O'Donnell lead the Marine Corps Birthday Fun Run prior to the Marine Aircraft Group 12 Field Meet and cake cutting ceremony.**

stretches and warm-up exercises were performed before the motivational run.

At 8:05 a.m. the formation stepped off and began the fun in celebration of the Marine Corps birthday at Penny Lake.

After the run the traditional cake cutting ceremony took place where the oldest and youngest Marines shared a piece of cake to represent the passing of Marine Corps traditions and core values to a new generation of Marines.

From there the Marines began to participate in the field events consisting of soccer, the fireman's carry relay, own-the-bone, softball, Frisbee football, dizzy-izzy, tug-of-war, iron man push-ups, and the casualty drag relay.

Each squadron would compete against each other in healthy competition for event trophies, but overall, the true prizes are the bragging rights acquired from a win.

"It's good that Marines can gather in the spirit of healthy competition," said Marine Capt. John K. Grayvold, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aviation ordnance officer. "This is kind of unique."



PFC Lukas J. Blom

**Staff Sgt. Larry D. McClain, a Marine Aircraft Group 12 operations chief, leads his team in a tug-of-war match against Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.**

For many Marines and Sailors at the event, it was all about having a good time with good company.

"It's a great event," said Marine Staff Sgt. Jaun C. Luna, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 nondestructive inspection technician. "I get to hang out with my friends and talk with other Marines."

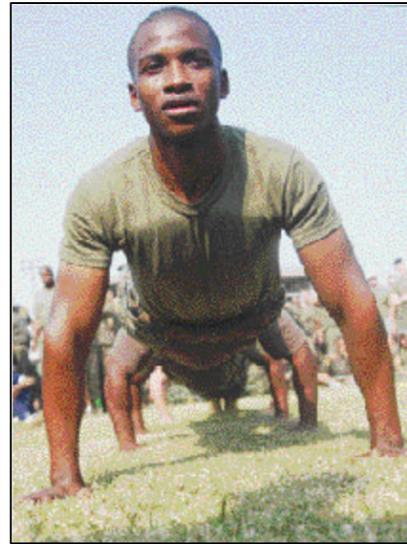
One of the more popular competitive events was softball. The MALS-12 team competed against all the other squadrons and took first place.

Many of the players felt that the field meet was really an opportunity for them to shine in the event that they competed in.

"I love to go out there and hit home-runs," said Marine Sgt. Jordan J. Hines, MALS-12 Avionics.

"We enjoy the competition and taking trophies," said Luna.

The most humorous event was the Dizzy-Izzy relay. It's where Marines or Sailors sprint 100 yards to a baseball bat and place their forehead on one end and spin around it 10 times. The next task is to try and focus on running back to the team without crashing into the ground face first or running sideways to the other side of the field.



Lance Cpl. Cristin K. Barter

**Sgt. Nyketric Singletary, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Embark, focuses on doing push-ups as a team.**

"I think the Dizzy-Izzy brought out the true spirit of competition because it doesn't matter whether you win or lose," said Navy Seaman Jonathan W. Riendeau, Navy Electronic Attack Squadron 142, aviation electrician. "It's all about having fun!"

Although a fun competition between friendly squadrons in celebration of the Marine Corps birthday was the intent of the event, some Marines just enjoyed a day off from work and having a good time with friends and fellow service members.