

THE YEAR IN REVIEW  
10 pages highlighting last  
year's events

2011

## SPECIAL MEAL

Service members and civilians are invited to the Martin Luther King, Jr. meal Jan. 13 from 11:30 am. - 1 p.m. in the Club Iwakuni ballroom



## THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 1, Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

# 2011 { THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## JANUARY



PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNNERY SGT. FABIO L. SALAS

**Jan. 12**

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting and Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic personnel took part in Exercise Night Mishap.

**Jan. 21**

Digital Cable Television and high-speed internet provided by Americable are scheduled to be available in June.

**Jan. 30**

American students from Matthew C. Perry High School and Japanese students from Iwakuni Municipal Higashi Junior High School played their instruments together during the inaugural U.S. - Japan Friendship Concert at the Sinfonia Concert Hall.

## Lucky Red Lions lift for Lava Viper 2011

**Jan. 8** Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marines landed at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii as an advanced party to support and prepare for Exercise Lava Viper 2011.

Lava Viper is an exercise implemented to establish unit cohesion and squadron readiness in a forward-deployed environment.

The mission of Lava Viper 2011 was to provide assault support aviation services to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines while simultaneously enhancing and sustaining MAG-24's combat readiness and warfighting capabilities.

Prior to the exercise, the main objective was to establish effective communication and workspace, and make sure equipment was available to accomplish the mission.

After the advanced party had coordinated workspace, storage availability and communication between Kaneohe Bay and Hickam Air Force Base, gear they needed to use during the exercise was staged.

## Japanese, American units improve interoperability during Keen Edge


**Jan. 27** Marines and sailors from Marine Attack Squadron 211, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 and Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 participated in Cobra Gold 2011 arrived at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand.

Cobra Gold is an annual exercise that demonstrated joint and multinational capabilities and improves interoperability between the United States and Thailand.

The joint/combined exercise is designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the Royal Thai Armed Forces defensive tactics and response measure.

Cobra Gold focused on building operational readiness in tactics, equipment and logistical support for both the U.S. and Thai forces.





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*The Iwakuni Approach 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 may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.*

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# FEBRUARY

- Feb. 3**  
Capt. Miguel Cruz, MWSS-171 maintenance management officer, receive logistician of the year award.
- Feb. 7**  
Tony Horton, fitness guru and creator of the P90X fitness program, visits with Marines.
- Feb. 13**  
Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting specialists conduct live fire training exercise.
- Feb. 16**  
Air station Marines continue operations in Thailand in support of Cobra Gold 2011. Cobra Gold demonstrates joint and multinational capabilities.
- Feb. 28**  
Marines respond to hostage simulation during exercise Active Shield 2011.

## Marines, sailors spend time in Panyonnookun School for Disabled

**Feb. 4** KORAT, Royal Kingdom of Thailand — Marines and sailors supporting Cobra Gold 2011 participated in a community relations event at the Panyonnookun School for Disabled to aid in humanitarian efforts Feb. 4.

Below Seaman Greyson Harrelson, puts two children on his shoulders.



CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN



CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

## Community relations project reaches out to elderly men, women

**Feb. 12** KORAT, Royal Kingdom of Thailand — Marines and sailors participating in Cobra Gold 2011 visited Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged Feb. 12 as part of a community relations project through the chaplain's office. Approximately 20 Marines and sailors went to Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged for the 10th community relations project of Cobra Gold 2011.

Above Lance Cpl. Skylar Harris, an air control electronics operator with Marine Air Control Squadron 4, dances with an elderly man.

## NEO kicks off Active Shield 2011

**Feb. 23-25** Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron military volunteers and civilians participated in a simulated noncombatant evacuation operation here. Noncombatant evacuation operations evacuate civilian noncombatants and nonessential military personnel from locations in a foreign nation to a designated safe haven during times of endangerment.

## Japanese Officer exchange Program: Building bond between America, Japan

**Feb. 18** Japanese Air Self-Defense Force, 3rd Wing, 3rd Squadron pilots visited the station as part of a Japanese Officer Exchange Program hosted by Marine Aircraft Group 12. The exchange program aims at bettering the working relationship and understanding between the Japanese and American pilots.

Right: Two Marine aircraft pilots explain to JASDF pilots the capabilities of missiles that can be attached to an F/A-18.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

# MARCH

- March 1**  
MCAS Iwakuni simulates a power outage during Exercise Active Shield 2011 here in order to test the stations emergency power system.
- March 1**  
Suspicious package puts postal Marines on full alert during Exercise Active Shield 2011 at the north side Post Office.
- March 11**  
Marine Aerial Refueler Transportation Squadron -234 Marines receive a call over the radio during a routine transportation mission in support of Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron -12 which retasked them in support of Operation Tomodachi.
- March 11**  
In immediate response to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami Harbor Operations supports the movement of more than 450 tons of relief supplies on the HSV Express.
- March 24**  
Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 Marines wrap up exercise Cope Tiger 2011 in Thailand.

## Hawks soar into Thailand, claw at Cope Tiger

**March 8** KORAT ROYAL AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533, along with several other unit detachments from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, arrived here to participate in exercise Cope Tiger 2011. Cope Tiger is a multilateral, aerial, large force exercise conducted annually in the Pacific region to improve interoperability between U.S. and Thai forces.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

## VMFA-314 flies through training

**March 9** Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, an F/A-18 Hornet squadron based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., arrived here as part of the Unit Deployment Program to keep its Marines combat ready by conducting training operations here and around the region.

The UDP reduces the number of unaccompanied tours and improves unit continuity.

## KC-130s roll down Iwakuni strip to support Japan



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

## March 13

Marines and sailors from Okinawa arrived here between March 12-13 in a variety of aircraft including KC-130s, CH-46s and CH-60s in support of Operation Tomodachi. The aircraft sent from Okinawa are on a mission to provide humanitarian aid.

Japan's largest earthquake in approximately 90 years registered at 9.0 and generated a tsunami that devastated northern Japan.

Left: A Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 KC-130 is refueled on the flightline here before continuing to Atsugi, Japan.



SGT. ANDREA OLGUIN

## Station comes together for relief efforts

## March 19 - 20

Station personnel volunteered to collect donations at the Marine Corps Exchange, Commissary and the Thrift Store March 19-20 for the humanitarian relief effort.

More than 250 volunteers from the station community helped collect, package and ship more than 1,525 boxes of supplies including 50 sleeping bags, 13 sleeping mats, more than 1,480 bottles of water, 1,040 diapers, along with a variety of canned foods and toiletries and 8,265 pounds of donated items to Logistics.

## U.S. and ROK forces train in defense of South Korea

**March 26** CAMPUJUK, South Korea — Pacific theater-based Marine squadrons here concluded their portion of Exercise Foal Eagle 2011. Foal Eagle is a joint and combined defensive military training evolution designed to exercise the defensive field and air capabilities of the participating service members.

U.S. military forces from around the world, combined with the Republic of Korea military forces, participated in the annual exercise to improve their abilities to defend South Korea against any regional contingency.

Right: a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 F/A-18 Hornet races down the flightline.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



# APRIL | MAY

**April 6**

Marine Aircraft Group 12 welcome Marine Attack Squadron 211 into its hangars here. The squadron arrived here as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

**April 15**

Forty Marines and station residents compete in the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Troop 77 Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course.

**April 23**

More than 300 children and parents show up to participate in the 8th Annual Iwakuni Easter Egg Hunt at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here.

**May 14**

Students of Matthew C. Perry Elementary school play games, get their faces painted and enjoy barbecue food during the M.C. Perry Spring Fling School Carnival.

**May 17**

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 pilots take to the skies here to execute evaluation exercises in accordance with Marine Corps standards.

## Sergeant Major moves on after 3 years of diligent caretaking

**April 22** Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral succeeded Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, who is scheduled to become the senior enlisted advisor for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, as the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major, in a relief-and-appointment ceremony.

## Senior enlisted Bat says goodbye to heavy-hearted squadron

**May 6** Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Pritchard replaced Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown as the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 sergeant major during a relief and-appointment ceremony at the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar here.

## Marines, JASDF implement enhanced simulated air-to-air combat training

**May 19** Marine Aircraft Group 12's Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 pilots launched four F/A-18D Hornet

jets from the runway here to conduct ongoing simulated air-to-air combat training with elements of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force.



CPL JENNIFER PIRANTE

## MCAS Iwakuni cleans up Earth Day

**April 22** More than 80 Marines, sailors and station residents did their part to keep the air station clean by gathering trash and debris along the seawall near Penny Lake during an Earth Day cleanup here.



CPL JENNIFER PIRANTE

## Knights soar with Hawks

### during training

**May 17** KADENA AIR BASE, Japan –Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 pilots took to the skies here to execute evaluation

exercises in accordance with Marine Corps Standards. The evaluation provide all of the squadrons' aircrews in the fleet with a level playing field to be tested. Below, Maj. Brian M. Blomquist, a VMFA(AW)-533 weapons system operator, releases a 500 pound bomb during a training exercise.



PHOTO COUTESY OF CAPT. MATTHEW HUMPHRIES

## Station mourns loss of chaplain

**May 27**

The station mourns the loss of Lt. j.g. Bruce B. West Jr., 41, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron chaplain after a bicycle accident.

A memorial service was held in his honor at the Marine Memorial Chapel.

West was endorsed by the Evangelical Church Alliance and had a Masters Degree in theological studies from Reformed Theological Seminary.



STOCK PHOTO

## Ready Group receives new commander

**May 27** Col. Christopher Mahoney, former Marine Aircraft Group 12 executive officer, succeeded Col. Stephen Nitzschke, as the MAG-12 commanding officer in a relief-and-appointment ceremony at the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 hangar here.

During his time as the MAG-12 commander, Nitzschke continually focused on improving the MAG's ability to live up to its name, "The Ready Group."

# JUNE

**June 1**

Marine Aircraft Group 12 main body arrive at Kadena Air Force Base, Japan to complete combat operations center for the Marine Division Tactics Course.

**June 4**

After completing the first week Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 are ready to take the Marine Division Tactics Course to the skies.

**June 13**

Yoshihiko Fukuda, Iwakuni city mayor, presents a letter of appreciation to Col. James C. Stewart, MCAS Iwakuni commanding officer, for the station's contribution to Operation Tomodachi.

**June 17**

Navy hospital corpsmen celebrate their 113th birthday at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here during the 2011 Navy Hospital Corpsmen Ball.



CPL CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

## ARFF Marines christen new burn area with blazing fire

**June 3**

Station Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines conducted a training exercise at their newly-constructed burn area located at the south end of the old flight line next to Penny Lake here.

The new burn area took approximately seven months to complete and will be used temporarily until construction on the permanent burn area is completed.

Date for completion on the future burn area is still pending. Left: Cpl. Lance B. Ladwig (Right), Sgt. Joshua R. Teaff and Lance Cpl. Gerald R. Clark, Station Aircraft Rescue Firefighting specialists, ignite their newly constructed burn area.

## Station says goodbye to influential leader

**June 17**

Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown succeeded Sgt. Maj. David J. Wimberly as the station sergeant major during a relief-and-appointment ceremony hosted at the Building 1 parade deck.

Wimberly served as the station sergeant major from July 9, 2008 until June 17, 2011. During his three years here, Wimberly, has been part of the stations reconstruction projects and the opening of the runway in 2010.

## Marine Division Tactics Course aviation students fly through course

**June 23**

Command-selected students from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 533, 225 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 314 and 232 graduated from the Marine Division Tactics Course in a ceremony at the Officers Club here.

MDTC is a graduate-level course for pilots and weapon systems operators to improve their efficiency in the air-to-air arena.



PHOTO COUTESY OF CAPT. MATTHEW HUMPHRIES

## Top generals fly on VMFA(AW)-242 Bats' wings

**June 20**

Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 sponsored three orientation flights for three of the Marine Corps' top commanding generals here.

VMFA (AW)-242 pilots gave Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, Marine Corps base Camp Butler commanding general, Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, 3rd Marine Logistics Group commanding general, and Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, 3rd Marine Division

commanding general, a ride in the back seat of a F/A-18 Hornet jet to show them what VMFA(AW)-242 aircraft can do. Below: Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., (right), III Marine Expeditionary Force

commanding general, greets Brig. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, 3rd Marine Logistics Group commanding general after an orientation flight with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 here.



CPL JENNIFER PIRANTE



CPL KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.



# JULY

## July 1

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 flies to Royal Australian Air Force Base Townsville, Australia, to start Talisman Sabre 2011 and Southern Frontier 2011.

## July 8

CAMP FUJI, Japan — Marines with Combat Logistics Company 36 conduct training exercises to maintain their combat readiness.

## July 15

Brig. Gen. William D. Beydler, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, tours the station.

## July 27

Japan-based units close out Talisman Sabre 2011 in Australia.

## July 28

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 conducts simulated field training exercises at Penny Lake to familiarize the Marines' equipment and procedures.

## July 29

Japan-based Marine units and Australian forces continue combined training in Southern Frontier 2011 over the last several weeks.

## Boom go the fireworks!

**July 5** Station residents and Japanese locals gathered to watch the Independence Day fireworks display at Penny Lake here.

CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

## Black Knights steal show during Supercars race

**July 10** TOWNSVILLE, Australia — As American and Australian military forces throughout Queensland, the Northern Territory, and neighboring naval areas prepared for Talisman Sabre 2011, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 Black Knights decided to thank the local people here for their hospitality during the Sucrogen Townsville 400 V-8 Supercars races hosted south of the Townsville Central Business District.

## VMFA(AW)-242, MAG-12's elite squadron in readiness

**July 11** Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 carried out a short-surge mission here Monday to show the Marine Aircraft Group 12 command element the squadron is ready to carry out operations at the fastest expeditious pace possible.

## Marines, sailors make war against weeds during cleanup

**July 15** TOWNSVILLE, Australia — More than 20 Iwakuni and Okinawa-based service members participated in a landscape-beautification project at the Marabou Drive Park here as part of the community relation projects planned in support of exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial exercise designed to test and improve on the Australian and American forces' ability to conduct joint and combined task-force operations.

Right: Lance Cpl. Brittany Viruet, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 fixed-wing aircraft airframe mechanic tosses a weed onto a pile as Petty Officer 3rd class Omar Dalton, a Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 corpsman, rakes weeds out of the water.



CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

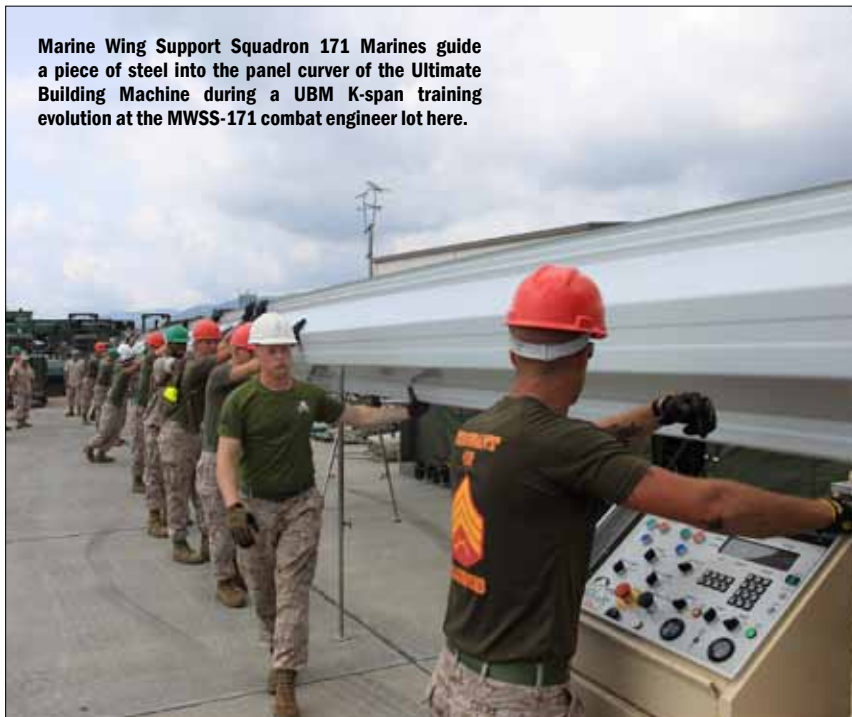
## MWSS-171 builds Ultimate Building Machine

**July 28** Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer Marines completed a training evolution, building the first Ultimate Building Machine K-span structure on station.

The training was conducted in preparation for exercise Lava Viper 2012 in Hawaii, where MWSS-171 combat engineers are slated to construct three UBM-style case band buildings.

The UBM is an all-terrain, mobile machine capable of producing durable steel structures in days rather than weeks or months. The machine is able to shape, cut and curve thin sheets of steel for construction in minutes.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines guide a piece of steel into the panel curver of the Ultimate Building Machine during a UBM K-span training evolution at the MWSS-171 combat engineer lot here.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN



CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

## UDP's only Navy squadron returns

**July 22** Marine Aircraft Group 12 welcomed 12 Strike Fighter Squadron 94 F/A-18C Hornet jets to the air station.

MAG-12 commanding officer Col. C.J. Mahoney and Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 aircrew welcomed VFA-94 pilots on the ground when each one climbed out of the cockpit after his long journey from the West Coast of the U.S.

Above, Navy Airman Jace Moyer, a VFA-94 maintenance crewmember, checked components underneath a F/A-18C Hornet jet after VMFA-94's arrival to the air station.

# AUGUST

## Aug. 1-3

Approximately 45 station children participate in a youth bowling camp hosted by youth sports. The camp focused on giving children the opportunity to participate in group sports.

## Aug. 17

The Iwakuni Roadrunners, the station's new running club, completes its first run.

## Aug. 24

Strike Fighter Squadron 94 launched aircraft to act as red-air aggressors to practice and train pilots in air-to-air operations on the flightline as part of Habu Fire II at Kadena Air Force Base Okinawa, Japan.

## Aug. 26

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron command recognize Women's Equality Day by having an all-female command element head the squadron for a day.

## Aug. 30

Pilots of VFA-94 execute and complete an aerial generator plant scenario during exercise Habu Fire II at Kadena Air Force Base Okinawa, Japan.



CPL. CLAUDIO MARTINEZ

## Black Knights surge to full power

**Aug. 2** ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TOWNSVILLE, Australia — The Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 Black Knights conducted a surge mission in support of Exercise Southern Frontier 2011 during the second day of the exercise.

Southern Frontier is an annual bilateral exercise designed to test and refine Marine aerial units' ability to provide air interdiction and close-air support to integrated

American and Australian ground units.

The surge mission required the Black Knights to successfully launch 30 sorties with 11 F/A-18s in one day to deliver ordnance in support of friendly ground movement at the Highrange Townsville Field Training Area.

Left, a VMFA-314 F/A-18 Hornet takes, off from the flightline here during the first part of the surge mission in support of Exercise Southern Frontier 2011.

## Be prepared: Urgent care, quick response key in training exercise

**Aug. 17** The Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Health Clinic, Provost Marshal's Office, Aircraft Rescue Firefighters and the station fire department took part in a mass casualty training drill at the downed aircraft simulation building here.

The simulated catastrophe in the exercise was a collapsed building.

Ten volunteers served as casualties with injuries

ranging from cuts, scrapes and bruises to disembowelment.

The casualties were strewn about the building, some on massive rubble piles and others staged in the sweltering heat of the building.

Right: station firefighters secure Pfc. Cory R. Elwood, a mass casualty participant, onto a gurney during a mass casualty training exercise next to the MCAS Iwakuni fire station here.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

## Mighty Shrikes headed to Kadena

**Aug. 17** Strike Fighter Squadron 94 advance personnel departed the air station toward Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, to complete final preparations for training

evolutions to be carried out on the island.

Habu Fire II was a joint-training exercise where squadrons worked together to perform and improve efficiency in air-to-air operations.

Participating squadrons included VFA-94, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 214 and 18th Fighter Wing.

## Bands rock open house summer music festival



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

**Aug. 27** Approximately 4,500 station and local residents flooded the Torii Pines golf course here to celebrate the first Summer Music Festival Open House.

Along with live music, attendees indulged in food, drinks and entertainment.

Unlike past Summer Music Festivals, this year's open house theme welcomed all local Japanese residents aboard station to enjoy the festivities.

Left: Walter Gentry, Johnny "V" Vernaza saxophone player, strolls around the audience while performing a melodic jazz solo during the Summer Music Festival Open House here.

## VFA-94 receives award for going above, beyond

**Aug. 31** The Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 94 Mighty Shrikes were presented the Marine Aircraft Group 12 Tactical Strafe Award by Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, during a formation at Hangar 3 here.

Beydler presented the award to Cmdr. Curtis Carroll, VFA-94 commanding officer, and the squadron.

The award commemorated the squadron for performing operations above and beyond the standards of the Marine Corps.

The squadron went above and beyond what everyone expected and they continue to prove themselves during day-to-day operations, said Beydler in his speech to the squadron.



# SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER

**Sept. 3**

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 arrives here as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

**Sept. 11**

Station members gathered to participate in the 6th annual Freedom Walk to honor and remember the thousands lost September 11, 2001.

**Sept. 23**

Marine Corps Community Services holds the 34th annual MCCA Iwakuni Modified Triathlon. 200 participants came out to compete.

**Oct. 5**

Approximately 30 Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineers deploy to the Philippines for an Engineering Civic Action Project with III Marine Expeditionary Force to build a school for the local community.

**Oct. 12**

Red Ribbon Week kicks off for Matthew C. Perry Schools

**Oct. 21**

Marines and sailors competed in the Gladiators Challenge, which was the final event of the 2011 Commanders Cup competition.

## MWSS-171 bids farewell to outgoing sergeant major

**Sept. 1** Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 said farewell to one of its own as Sgt. Maj. Blake L. Smith, the former MWSS-171 sergeant major,

handed over his duties to Sgt. Maj. Albert Diaz, the new oncoming squadron sergeant major, during a relief-and-appointment ceremony at the Building 1 parade deck.

## Silver Eagles land in Iwakuni

**Sept. 1** Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 arrived here to begin a six month deployment as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

VMFA-115, also known as the Silver Eagles, replaced VMFA-314, who returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., after completing its own UDP deployment.

## Navy celebrates 236 years

**Oct. 14** More than two centuries of heritage and history brought sailors and fellow service members together to celebrate the 236th Navy birthday at the annual Navy Birthday Ball held at Club Iwakuni here.

This year's ball was set with a Japanese theme, which combined naval traditions with paying tribute to the station's host nation.

## Marines give VMFA-115 aircraft opportunity to detonate ordnance

**Oct. 21**

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 ordnance Marines completed air-to-ground ordnance loading training as part of a monthlong deployment to the region to ensure both VMFA

-115 ordnance Marines and pilots were proficient in their capabilities of employing live ordnance.

Below: Cpl. Trevor Fortin, a VMFA-115 aviation ordnance technician, prepares to move ordnance toward and F/A-18 Hornet during air-to-ground ordnance training exercises.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

## JMSDF flies through 38th annual open house

**Sept. 18**

A The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force delivered shock and awe to the local community by means of elaborate demonstrations, static displays and flybys during an open house.

Right: the JMSDF Fleet Air Wing 31 drill platoon performs rifle manual techniques during a demonstration at the JMSDF Air Base Festival.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

## Station welcomes more than 70 olympians

**Oct. 16**

Approximately 75 Special Olympians came out to the Fifth Annual Japanese Special Olympics Sports Day hosted by Marine Corps Community Services.

Right: competitors from Hiroshima Prefecture celebrate their bowling abilities with high-fives at the Strike Zone here.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

## Jane Wayne Day gives spouses inside look to Marine lives

**Oct. 21**

Spouses of Marines and Sailors with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Combat Logistic Company 36 were dressed in a variety of different combat utility uniforms and physical training gear for Jane Wayne Day.

Forty-four women signed up for the opportunity to



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

step into their husband's boots for the day.

Above: Former drill instructor Gunnery Sgt. Paris E. Mintz yells at

Mandy Apple, Jane Wayne Day participant, as Apple conducts push-ups during Jane Wayne Day here.

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

## Briefs

### Outstanding Person of the Year

In honor of Black History Month 2012, nominate a woman or man in the Iwakuni community for Outstanding Person of the Year. Nominees must have been part of the Iwakuni community Jan. to Dec. 2011. Contest ends 4 p.m. Jan. 21. All nominees and the winners will be recognized at the Black History Month Luncheon scheduled to be held Feb. 29 at Club Iwakuni. For more information, call Joy Calvin, 253-2133.

### College Registration

Central Texas College is holding registrations for spring semester courses now until Jan. 16. Courses will run from Jan. 16- March 11. For more information, stop by Building 411 room 109, the Education Office, or call 253-3288.

### Thrift Store Changes

The Marine Thrift Store has new management and new hours. Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4-6:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Open to active duty military in uniform Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

### Burglary Investigation

CID has been conducting an investigation on a burglary that occurred sometime between late evening Oct. 7 and early morning Oct. 8 within Barracks 335 Room 221. Suspects stole a Macbook Pro Laptop computer belonging to a Marine from MACS-4 Det

Bravo. If anyone has any information regarding this investigation, or any other crime, inform your command, call CID, go to Building 608 for an interview or call the anonymous Crime Stoppers line at 253-3333.

### Main Gate Construction

Main Gate construction is scheduled through January. This construction will impact traffic weekdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. During these times, all outbound traffic will be redirected to the North and Monzen Gates. Pedestrians and bicyclists will not be affected. The visitor center will be fully operational.

### Education Fair

The Lifelong Learning Department is scheduled to host a Education Fair for station residents March 7 from 12 - 2 p.m. in Building 411. This event will serve as a great informational forum for students interested in starting, continuing and advancing their education. Light refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given away. For more information, contact the Education Office at 253-3855.

### Relief Donation

The Officers' Spouses' Club is scheduled to hold a Taiko drum and Tsunami relief donation event from 2 - 5 p.m., Jan. 29, at the Marine Memorial Chapel. For more information, contact Ms. Megan Reed at maggylou@gmail.com.

### Iwakuni Roadrunners

All service members and civilians are welcome.

Runs are Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Meeting place is in front of Crossroads Mall. Time and length of runs vary. All abilities are welcome. For more information visit "Iwakuni Roadrunners" Facebook page.

### Girl Scouts

The Iwakuni Girl Scouts is looking for fun-loving, devoted women and men who want to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls. If you are interested in becoming a leader, coleader, board member or parent volunteer, e-mail iwakunigs@gmail.com.

### Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS offers fun support and encouragement for mothers of children ages 0-5. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. Volunteers are also needed to help with our children's program. For more information, call Sarah Spencer at 253-2303 or visit www.facebook/IwakuniMOPS.

### PMO Lost and Found

Contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you've lost anything around the station. For more information, to report lost items or to claim lost items, call 253-4929.

### Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

• Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837)  
• Life limb or loss of vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell

phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.

• For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.  
• Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

### Lending Locker Program

The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check out items and the program is by appointment only. The lending locker is located in Building 411 Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

### NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at

253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

### Birthday Break

The birthday break is an ongoing promotion held every Friday at 9:15 a.m. on Power 1575 radio. The promotion is open to anyone with a birthday. Just visit www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake, fill out the form and let Power 1575 and Marine Corps Community Services take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on the last Friday of every month there will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

### Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, You may submit your brief or classified ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. However you choose to submit, ensure you provide all requested information to simply the request process and ensure your request is processed properly. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

## Temporary facility closures

- The following facilities will be closed due to annual retail inventory scheduled to take place Jan. 22-24.
- The station Warehouse (Bldg. 380 & 1285) will be closed Jan. 22 all day.
- The Southside Marine Mart will be closed Jan. 23. The store will reopen immediately upon completion of inventory.
- The Main MCX Store will be closed Jan. 23 all day.
- The MCX Furniture Annex will be closed Jan. 23 all day. The Northside Marine Mart will be closed Jan. 24.
- The store will reopen immediately upon completion of inventory.
- Typhoon Motors will be closed Jan. 24. The store will reopen immediately upon completion of inventory.

## got news?

Do you have an idea for a story or need coverage for an event? We are here for you. Contact the Public Affairs office two weeks in advance of projected publication date by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, calling 253-5551 or stopping by Building 1, Room 216.



INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

<b>Roman Catholic</b> Saturday	
	4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday	
	8:30 a.m. Mass 9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tues. – Fri.	
	11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
<b>Protestant</b> 2nd & 4th Saturday	
	10:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath meeting
Sunday	
	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult
	Bible study 10:30 a.m. Protestant Service 4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy Communion Service (Small Chapel)
Tuesday	
	9 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	
	5:45 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
1st & 3rd Thursday	
	9:30 a.m. MOPS
<b>Church of Christ</b> Sunday	
	9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel) 10:30 a.m. Service Fellowship

- Teen Programs**
- High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12)
  - Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8)
  - HS&JR Bible Studies
  - Retreats
  - Service Projects
  - Missions Trip
  - Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

Photo of the year



Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, answers questions from Combat Logistics Company 36 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 during a town hall meeting at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here June 15, 2011. Amos and Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, 17th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, visited the air station during a seven-day tour of the Pacific Theater. If you have your own photo to submit? Submit your photos to the Public Affairs Office by e-mailing them to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or submit them in person at the Public Affairs Office in Building 1 Room 216. Entries will be judged by the Iwakuni Approach Staff and the top selection will run in the next edition of the Iwakuni Approach. For more information call 253-5551.

SAKURA THEATER

- Friday, January 6, 2011**  
7 p.m. Johnny English Reborn (PG)  
10 p.m. The Rum Diary (R)

**Saturday, January 7, 2011**  
4 p.m. Hugo (PG)  
7 p.m. In Time (PG-13)

**Sunday, January 8, 2011**  
4 p.m. Jack and Jill (PG)  
7 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG-13)
- Monday, January 9, 2011**  
7 p.m. Jack and Jill (PG)  
*Last Showing*

**Tuesday, January 10, 2011**  
*Theater closed*

**Wednesday, January 11, 2011**  
*Theater closed*

**Thursday, January 12, 2011**  
7 p.m. The Rum Diary (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check [www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura) often for updates, or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.

General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$3/ Ages 6-11 are \$1.50/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.

Mess Hall Menu

- Monday**  
Corn chowder, turkey yakisoba, Chinese barbecue diced pork, red pepper glazed fish, pork fried rice, steamed rice, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, cinnamon crumb top muffin, blueberry pie, velvet pound cake, brownies, chocolate cream pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

**Tuesday**  
Chicken gumbo soup, French fried shrimp, sukiyaki, barbecue beef cubes, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, cauliflower parmesan, southern style greens, creamy gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, long Johns, banana muffin, lemon meringue, devil's food cake with chocolate buttercream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait.

**Wednesday**  
Cream of broccoli soup, French onion soup, Chinese five spice chicken, Swiss steak with brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage with bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, quick cherry coffee cake, blueberry pie, white cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

**Thursday**  
New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, baked ham, macaroni and tomatoes, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas with onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, banana cake with buttercream frosting, macadamia chocolate chunks, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

**Friday**  
Tomato soup, catfish, beef stew, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, Franconia potatoes, steamed pasta, succotash, broccoli parmesan, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, cinnamon rolls, quick French coffee cake, blueberry pie, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting, chocolate chip cookie, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 6**  
Crossfire Paintball, the indoor paintball range here, officially closes its doors due to pending construction.

**Nov. 10**  
Marine Aircraft Group 12 units face off in annual birthday ball field meet.

**Nov. 10**  
Marines celebrate 236 years of honor courage and commitment.

**Nov. 24**  
Iwakuni Roadrunners hosts first 2011 Iwakuni Roadrunners Turkey Trot run.

**Nov. 23**  
Matthew C. Perry Elementary host the Japanese Cultural Festival at the school to help strengthen local bonds.

**Nov. 25**  
Station leaders attend the Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport groundbreaking and blessing ceremony.

**Nov. 26**  
10th annual tree lighting ceremony ignites Cherry Blossom Triangle with more than 8,000 lights.

Machiko “Mama-san” Hamamoto named Honorary Marine for lifetime of service

**Nov. 8** Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 recognized Machiko Hamamoto, affectionately known as “Mama-san”, as an Honorary Marine for her many years of dutiful service in a ceremony at the Strike Fighter Squadron 94 hangar here.

Hamamoto, 82, has spent 43 years working alongside Marines and organizing cleanup and community relations projects. She also collects Christmas gifts for local handicapped children and for children at Shobara Sakura Gakuen orphanage.

Her helping hand has reached even to the U.S. She received an American Red Cross certificate of appreciation for her role in delivering Red Cross services after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake near San Francisco.

Below: Cpl. Matthew L. E. Doyle, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 community relations coordinator, escorts

Mighty Shrikes say goodbye to commanding officer

**Nov. 8** Navy Squadron 94 commanding officer, Mark A. Hubbard, during a relief and appointment ceremony at the VFA-94 hangar here. Carroll was replaced by Cmdr. David B. Halloran, VFA-94 executive officer. Carroll spoke highly of

his time with VFA-94, offering his praise to both his junior officers and enlisted sailors and how they have continued to be mission capable throughout their entire Unit Deployment Program deployment to the Pacific Theater.

Marines trade guns for swords during Kuragake Castle Festival

**Nov. 20** Five volunteers from the station participated in the Kuragake Castle Festival in Kuga, Iwakuni City.

Volunteers clothed in full samurai armor paraded through the Kuga streets and reenacted a dramatic scene that took place in Kuga during the 16th century.

Below, Marine volunteers march off scene after the stage performance of the 22nd Kuragake Castle Festival.

The volunteer samurai reenacted one of the last gatherings held by the Kuga Samurai before going to battle a massive enemy force.

Although defeat was certain, the samurai pleaded for their castle lord to allow them to go into battle and make their last stand in honor.



Wolmi-do Fury kicks off

**Nov. 29** ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marines and sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 arrive in Guam to begin aerial and ground training in the region as part of a monthlong deployment for exercise Wolmi-do Fury to improve and bolster combat efficiency.

The purpose of the training is to execute scenario based tactical operations to demonstrate relevant search capabilities for various theaters and re-familiarize pilots and ground crew members to become proficient in their respective jobs.



# DECEMBER

## Dec. 1

Marine Aircraft Group 12 conducts Wolmi-Do Fury, a MAG exercise integrating the flying squadrons

## Dec. 4

Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic corpsmen and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force service members spend time with Akibono Foster Home orphanage children from Oshima Island at the Branch Health Clinic here.

## Dec. 7

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 practice different flight scenarios as part of exercise Wolmi-do Fury.

## Dec. 7

Members of the Miami Marlins major league baseball team, with support from Armed Forces Entertainment, spend a day visiting station residents.

## Dec. 10

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marines and sailors volunteer at the Guam Department of Youth Affairs, a correctional facility for troubled youth.

## VMFA-115 mails large order of dummy-bombs to island in Pacific

**Dec. 2** ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 launched eight F/A-18 Hornets carrying thousands of pounds worth of practice ordnance as part of Exercise Wolmi-do Fury here.

Exercise Wolmi-do Fury is a series of different scenarios, which allow pilots a chance to practice multiple employment tactics and allow Marines and sailors to become more proficient in their respective jobs.

Right: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 F/A-18 Hornets taxi out to the flight line and group together so they can launch all at once.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHODES

## Thunderous goodwill rolls through station

**Dec. 4** The station Single Marine Program and Iwakuni Motorcycle Club hosted the 14th annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally at the Strike Zone parking lot here.

The rally is part of the Toys for Tots campaign, which gathers toys for underprivileged children 2 – 18 years old.

The toys are slated to be given out during future community relations projects in various countries Marines train in.

More than 100 Japanese and American Motorcyclists attended the rally.

## Globetrotters amaze crowd with high flying performance

**Dec. 3** The world famous Harlem Globetrotters competed for the basketball world championship against their rival team, Global Select, in a heated exhibition at the Iron-Works Gym sports courts here.

Since 1926, the Globetrotters have been entertaining crowds around the world, recruiting the most elite basketball players and handlers worldwide.

The Globetrotters are slated to perform for service members throughout the Pacific region.

Right: Ant, Harlem Globetrotter, watches as his teammate, Flip, goes for a high-flying slam-dunk during the Original Harlem Globetrotters versus Global Select world championship game at the IronWorks Gym sports courts.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

## Fighting fires for fuels future

**Dec. 8** Bulk fuel specialists with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 completed annually-required training, with help from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, at the burn pit near the harbor here.

“Once a year MWSS-171 bulk fuel specialist Marines come out and do this training to stay proficient in their job skills,” said Gunnery Sgt. Robert A. Rudolph, MWSS-171 ARFF embarkation chief. “They pump fuel every day so if fuel catches fire they have to know how to put it out.”

This annual training is required for all Marines here who work with fuel.

## MWSS-171 mobilization exercises improve expeditionary abilities

**Dec. 12-16** Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines conducted flight line and harbor expeditionary exercises here.

These exercises were meant to show Marines how much time, assets and manpower are needed for the squadron to respond in an expeditionary manner.

The quick mobilization of the squadron during combat scenarios also helped Marines improve their mission readiness.

The squadron moved approximately 80 percent of its gear and personnel during the exercise. Approximately 20 MWSS-171 Marines received M16A4 rifles as an advanced landing party to secure the area for the staged

equipment during a combat scenario.

The squadron moved approximately 80 percent of its gear and personnel during the exercise. Marines staged their large equipment upon completion of the flight line operations.

Gear such as the Tractor Rubber Tired Articulated Steering Multipurpose Vehicle was used to stage the majority of the gear, at the harbor for seaside transport. The exercises revealed any deficiencies the Marines could experience during movements, such as this, and fix them.

This is the first time MWSS-171 has been able to perform an exercise on this scale without supporting a unit deployment program squadron.

## Silver Eagles says goodbye to motivated sergeant major

**Dec. 16** ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron said farewell to one of its own as Sgt. Maj. Clay G. Lambert, the former VMFA-115 sergeant major, handed over his duties to Sgt. Maj. James D. Huller, the oncoming squadron sergeant major, during a relief-and-appointment ceremony at the flightline here.