

CONGRATULATIONS
Check out whose hand you should be shaking | P. 4

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Navy squadron checks off deck | P. 6&7



SUPPLEMENT
Temporary ban | P. 11



IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 2 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



VMFA(AW) - 242 Bats surge | P. 6 & 7

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 pilots wait to be cleared for take off during the surge day that took place at the air field here Jan. 12. A surge day is done to test a squadrons capabilities by rapidly prouncing sorties to ensure readiness and proficiency in combat scenarios.

Free Federal Income Tax Service

STATION JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE
GUEST SUBMISSION

The Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Tax Center is slated to open Monday, January 23, to assist station personnel and residents in preparing and filing their federal income tax returns for the 2011 tax year. All services are free. The Tax Center is located on the first floor in Building 608 at the Station Judge Advocate's office. Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays in March from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. by appointment only. The Tax Center will have representatives working full time to assist in preparing and filing

SEE **TAX** ON PAGE 3

MWSS-171 sets sights on Lava Viper

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 has joined other units including Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Combat Logistics Battalion 3 in exercise Lava Viper taking place in Hawaii Jan. 13.

Lava Viper is a biannual exercise which allows all Marines to train and improve proficiency in their respective duties; this allows mission accomplishment in a well-timed manner, safer and with less complications.

"We can exercise almost all six functions of a Marine wing support squadron in Lava Viper," said Staff Sgt. Johnathan Spinosi,

SEE **LAVA** ON PAGE 3

Commissaries discontinue overseas magazine sales

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Defense Commissary Agency has announced the end of magazine sales in their overseas stores beginning January 2012 in an attempt to cut back on the price of overseas shipping.

"With the rising costs in transportation and declining sales, the decision was made to end the sale of magazines in our stores in Europe and

the Pacific," said Chris Burns, DeCA director of sales. "We have to be fiscally responsible with our taxpayer-provided resources, and this is one way we can do that."

Before deciding to cease overseas sales altogether, DeCA officials tried options such as deleting slow-selling titles and reducing the volume of magazines shipped overseas. However, these ideas did not

SEE **MAGAZINE** ON PAGE 3

Political activities: what every Marine and DOD civilian should know

CPL. ISIS M. RAMIREZ
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Just like everyone else in the United States, Marines and Department of Defense civilians have opinions. As citizens, they have the freedom to generate and express their beliefs.

However, as the 2012 presidential elections draw near, it is a good time to be reminded of the do's and don'ts in regard to service members and civilian government employees participating in the election

process, as well as how opinions can be appropriately expressed in a public forum.


The guidelines for any federal employee's participation in political activities are stated in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, which applies to service members, and the Hatch Act, which applies to federal civilian employees. Both groups are prohibited from using their official capacity to influence an election.

Service members may express their personal opinion on political candidates and

issues, join political clubs and attend their meetings, attend political fundraisers and make donations, when not in uniform, as a spectator and private citizen only. However, aside from making donations, they may not assist any partisan political activity, candidate or cause. The key to being within regulations while in attendance at a political event is remaining a spectator and not becoming a participant and not attending in uniform.

"The DOD directive allows

SEE **POLITICAL** ON PAGE 3



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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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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘God has a plan’

CMR. DEAN L. HOELZ
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

A young sailor from my old command sent me a message on Facebook last week.

She was worried because she received the bad news that due to the Navy’s Perform to Serve Program, she could not stay in the Navy. This young sailor, who is also the mother of a two-year-old, had her worry compounded by the fact she was recently diagnosed with a serious medical condition.

She asked me, “Chaps, I don’t know what I’m going to do?”

The news she received wasn’t in her plans.

The future she had been planning, the hopes she had, now

seemed to have vanished and been replaced with disappointment, anger and fear.

I had no words of my own that might help her, but I did share with her the words that I look at every morning.

They are written on a 3x5 index card and taped to my bathroom mirror. When I brush my teeth and shave, I see God’s word, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, staring me in the face each morning.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Each morning, I need to see these words and silently speak God’s promise to myself.

Although I have my own plans, hopes and ideas where I want my life to go, my plans do not always work out.

My goals, more times than not, fail to materialize.

That little 3x5 card reminds me each day, although I make

plans to the best of my ability, I cannot plan the results; they are left to the Creator, the great planner of the Cosmos. When life isn’t working out the way I think it ought to; when my plans and goals are shattered; when my hopes and dreams fall apart, that small 3x5 index card gives me hope.

It reminds me daily that God has a plan for me and for each of us.

His will is to give us hope and a future.

I haven’t heard back from the young sailor who emailed me, but I hope the promise of God gives her hope of a new future and the promise of dreams yet to be realized for her and her child.

“In the coming new year may each of you be assured of God’s perfect plan for you; his plan to prosper you and not to harm you; his plan to give you hope and a future.”

May he continue to richly bless you and those you love in this coming new year.

Black History Month booth details upcoming events



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Netra Harwell, Matthew C. Perry Elementary School educational technologist, hands out calendar schedules to station residents at Crossroads Mall here Tues. The Black History Month booth was set up to provide station residents with dates and times of events scheduled for February and to provide more information on influential African Americans throughout history.

BOOT SCOOTIN’ ROUNDUP

A live 1-hour radio show featuring the best country music. Kick up your boots 9 - 10 a.m. Mondays-Thursdays on Power 157.5.

Do’s and don’ts for service members during election process

POLITICAL FROM PAGE 1

individual service members to support whatever political party [or] candidate they want,” said James J. O’Donnell, the attorney advisor at staff judge advocate, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. “They can express their personal opinion but not as a representative of the armed forces. You don’t do it in uniform.”

It is unlawful for a service member to participate in any interview or group discussion as an advocate for or against any party. It is also prohibited for any active duty service member to make a public political speech or serve in any capacity for any partisan political campaign,

convention or group, whether in uniform or not.

According to Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, service members can show their support for a political candidate or party by placing a bumper sticker on their private vehicles or displaying signs at their homes, if the home is not on a military installation.

They can also support a candidate, party or idea on their personal social media website as long as it’s not a part of a communication campaign and they do not appear to represent the view of the armed forces. A service member cannot post links to official campaigning websites or forums; however, it is permissible

to “like” a campaign’s page. They cross the line into participating in the campaign by posting or commenting on the campaign and/or candidate’s page.

Nearly all federal civilians at MarForPac are classified as less restricted under the Hatch act, which allows them to endorse candidates and attend, participate, be active members or hold office in political clubs as private citizens when no inference or appearance of official endorsement can be reasonably drawn; however, they cannot engage in any political activities in any federal building, while on duty or when using a federally-owned or leased vehicle.

Service members who fail to

follow Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 may be punished under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. The potential consequence for civilians is dismissal from federal service.

“(They need to) be sure that any activity they do is clearly in a personal capacity and doesn’t potentially give an inference that it is in an official capacity,” O’Donnell said.

For more guidance on what political involvement is permitted, contact the SJA at 808-477-8505. Service members may also refer to the Department of Defense Directive 1344.10. Federal civilian employees may refer to the Hatch Act.

LAVA FROM PAGE 1

MWSS-171 operations chief. “This helps us keep the expeditionary portion or operation up to date with training which we cannot perform here on station.”

The six main functions of any MWSS-171 include assault support, anti-air warfare, offensive air support, and electronic warfare, control of aircraft and missiles, and aerial reconnaissance.

Lava Viper exercises are necessary for MWSS-171 to complete training and be ready for any mission which arises.

“There are two Lava Vipers per year with this exercise being 12.1,” said Spinosi. “There will be a Lava Viper 12.2 in July and hopefully we will be able to cycle more Marines through so everyone will get their tactical miles done and be able to experience that quality of training which we are able to offer.”

With a majority of Marines able to rotate through a cycle of Lava Viper it allows time for training and eliminates the need to rotate through different Marines while there with its twice-a-year setup.

“We get a lot of tactical miles driven, where the motor transportation Marines get convoy training with live ammunition and can also train in live-fire training while mounted on vehicles,” said Spinosi.

By completing multiple types of training it allows for a well rounded Marine who can perform a multitude of tasks.

“Sometimes we train with a moving convoy, but other times it is stationary in order to allow the Marines to familiarize themselves with the weapon system,” said Spinosi.

The weapons which were used for MWSS-171s training included Mk-19s, Mk2s which are .50 caliber machine guns, M-240 bravos, and also M-249s which are also known as Squad Automatic Weapons, or SAW.

“We shoot most of our .50 caliber ammunitions during Lava Viper so we may have fewer restrictions, this allows the Marines to traverse in the turret or on the tripod,” said Spinosi.

Within the past few years Lava Viper has expanded to allow more training to be accomplished.

“Prior to Lava Viper 10.2 combat engineers did not participate in the exercise,” said Capt. Mark Schouten, MWSS-171 engineer operations company commander.

The combat engineers don’t go through the same training as all other Marines, but with their unique skill set they help support the other Marines’ training.

“With a high deployment tempo, Lava Viper allows MWSS-171’s combat engineers another opportunity to increase proficiency in tasks such as building entry control points and southwest Asia huts,” said Shouten.

Although the combat engineers’ mission differs from others’ while at Lava Viper, theirs, like the rest of MWSS-171’s is vital to the success of the exercise.

MAGAZINE FROM PAGE 1

result in a positive sales trend.

“The decision to eliminate magazine sales overseas was not an easy one, but a decision had to be made in our fiscally constrained environment,” said Burns. “The contract for selling magazines in the overseas stores ends in fiscal year 2012, so this is the proper time to make this change.”

DeCA will continue to sell the Stars & Stripes newspaper

overseas. Magazines will also continue to be available in military exchanges.

“By eliminating the logistical costs of airlifting magazines to overseas distribution centers, we’re able to keep other important products flowing to our store shelves,” said Burns.

This affects all commissaries in Europe, the Pacific and Puerto Rico. Commissaries in Alaska and Hawaii are not affected by this sales change.

Interested in becoming a DJ?

You could rock the club and enjoy all the night time parties Club Iwakuni has to offer! If you are interested in becoming a DJ, call MGS Productions at 253-3727 for details.

Marine Corps Community Services Scholars

Stacie Budd Petty	University of Maryland University College	Associates of Arts	Accounting
Cesar Canonizado	University of Phoenix	Masters	Business Administration
Cpl. Nathaniel D. Detro	Central Texas College	Associates of Arts	General Studies
Officer 2nd class Jerome Duncan	Central Texas College	Associates of Arts	General Studies
Jimmie King	University of Maryland University College	Bachelor of Science	Criminal Justice
Petty Officer 1st Class Papa D. Laye	University of Phoenix	Masters	Business Administration
Heather Marsh	University of Maryland University College	Bachelor of Science	Social Science
Staff Sgt. Jose L. Mendez	Central Texas College	Associates of Arts	General Studies
Petty Officer 1st Class Eddie G. Needham	University of Phoenix	Masters	Business Administration
Sgt. Steven J. Nulph	American Military University	Masters	Homeland Security
Walter S. Peugh Jr.	University of Phoenix	Masters	Business Administration
Gunnery Sgt. Willie B. Paris Jr.	Thomas Edison State College	Bachelor of Arts	Natural Science/Mathematics

Fair educates station residents on educational opportunities

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services held an education fair for station residents at building 411 here Jan. 5.

The education fair was open to all station residents, and it taught the importance of having a good college education.

“The program is open to everyone,” said Mary Cory, education services officer. “Our usual priority is Marines, but we have many sailors, and even a few soldiers, along with spouses and other station residents.”

With education so readily available, the leaders of military services have made it a necessity to continue a steady career in the armed forces.

“Education is important,” said Cory. “The commandant has said it is the fourth of his five top priorities.”

College degrees can be used to put one military member over another by increasing chances for promotion and other career opportunities.

“If you don’t have a degree you can’t compete with other Marines on meritorious boards or other forms of promotion,” said Lance Cpl. Robert N. Sagucio, radar technician.

Competition is big in the Marine Corps and in other military branches. One way of competing is by earning a degree, and the earlier the better.

“When someone first joins the military, their past college experience can influence what job they get, what rank they come in at, and most importantly, the opportunity to come in as an officer,” said Sagucio.

The Marine Corps is changing everyday, and education seems to be playing an important role.

“The Marine Corps is changing, and up until recently, it wasn’t uncommon to be a leader without a degree, but now it seems like an essential part of being a true leader,” said Sagucio.

This new focus on college experience exists in the civilian world just as much as the military.

Earning a degree doesn’t only help while in the military, but once a military member gets

out, it creates more job opportunities and can allow them to be a manager or boss instead of working up from the bottom of a company, said Thomas Keating, University of Phoenix enrollment advisor.

The job market has dropped, and finding jobs without proper experience isn’t easy.

“With a military background, service members already have a leg up on the general civilian population, but lately a degree will cause an employer to overlook that military experience,” said Thomas.

When looking for any type of job, experience is a key factor employers look at.

“Service members may be instilled with common courtesies and the ability to lead others but if our competition has a degree in accomplishing a job field correctly and proficiently then it is more than likely military members will be overlooked,” said Sagucio.

Education fairs are not held often, but the education center is always open for any station residents to learn about more benefits of going to college.

January Promotions

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.
Castro Jr., Angel E.
Frasure, Jalen A.
Johnson, Myeka A.
Kalman, Corey J.
Stewart, Adam K.
Taylor, Jordan R.
Thompson, Aaron N.
Thompson, Nicholas C.

Cpl.
Ames, Alfonso
Clark, Demargeo R.
Dodd, Brandon P.
Frampton, John P.
Luke, Jason L.
Merriman, Joseph K.
QuarantaParker, Bryan I.
Roberto, Samuel D.
Rochler, Gary E.
Walding, Cayden D.

Ward, Johnathan M.
Sgt.
Garza, Celestino A.
Green, Justin G.
Reyes, Hector D.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.
Cirillo, Alex R.
Cpl.
Deman, Lauren A.
Green, Jason T.
Luciano, Leighann M.
Russell, Kenneth R.
Sanford Jr., Corey J.
Sgt.
Antrim, Joseph D.
Hirvela, Kyle S.

Master Sgt.
White, Jonathan D.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.
Arellano, Ofni D.
Bui, Donal J.
Leonlandaeta, Jesus R.
Smith, Jonathan A.

Cpl.
Marczak, Robin A.
Shinn, Craig J.

VMFA(AW)-242

Staff Sgt.
Godley Jr., Travis J.

H&HS

Pfc.
Vazquez, Jesse O.

Lance Cpl.
Abdoulaye, Bintu

Cpl.
Graciano III, Jose A.
Kelly, Greico S.

Sgt.
Brown Jr., Andrew D.

Master Sgt.
Florentino, Maria E.

The Mighty Shrikes tear through training, head home

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Strike Fighter Squadron 94 has been working closely with Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 for approximately the past six months but departed from here Jan. 6.

VFA-94, also known as the Mighty Shrikes, a small carnivorous bird of prey, is based in Naval Air Station Lemoore in Lemoore, Calif.

This is VFA-94 final deployment as part of the Unit Deployment Program, but Marines and sailors are hoping they will be bringing it back.

UDP allows VFA-94 to travel around the world and train with a broad variety of units in many different climates.

“Marines and sailors have a very close relationship, no other branches have the type of bond which we have,” said Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, MAG-12 sergeant major. “When Marines fight there will always be sailors there and when it comes down to it there is only one fight.”

Anyone can turn a wrench, but by working together MAG-12, VMFA(AW)-242 and VFA-94 have learned different ways of completing the mission better, safer and faster.

During the fight, it doesn’t matter what branch a service member joined; we all fight for America, and when we have Marines and sailors training together, it will only improve our abilities, said Calvin.

The training MAG-12, VMFA(AW)-242 and VFA-94 have accomplished over the past six months has allowed both branches to get a

glimpse into each other’s habits and ways of life.

“During the months VFA-94 was here, we could see the differences in how they operate compared to MAG-12,” said Calvin. “I noticed some differences in their leadership styles, but both squadrons worked very well together, and I wish they could return in the future.”

Sailors with VFA-94 have been aboard the station for approximately six months and have been able to support the Marines here during day-to-day training and also during deployments such as Wolmi-do Fury in Guam.

“It was great we were able to work so closely with the Marines during the exercise Wolmi-do Fury,” said Chief Petty Officer Michael T. Dixon, a Fleet Readiness Center senior enlisted advisor. “It gave us all a chance to show our capabilities and create a bit of a competition between the Marines and sailors.”

The friendly competition which sparked between the Marines and sailors forced everyone to push themselves in order to try to outdo the other branch.

“While we were here, our friendly competition didn’t only push us as a branch, but it also allowed sailors to go out of their way to earn

individual awards such as the Fleet Marine Force pins which we were happy to award to three sailors,” said Dixon.

The FMF pin is issued to sailors who are trained and qualified to support the United States Marine Corps.

VFA-94 is scheduled to continue training indirectly with Marines, however they are not slated to be returning to Iwakuni on any training deployments in the future.



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — A Strike Fighter Squadron 94 aircrewman signals Lt. Cmdr. Robert Lanane, VFA-94 pilot, to the taxiway on the flightline here Dec. 1, 2011. VFA-94 conducted training in Guam for Wolmi-do Fury, an annual exercise as part of the Unit Deployment Program. UDP allows VFA-94 to travel around the world and train with a broad variety of units in many different climates.

Da-na-na-na-na BAT SURGE



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
Lance Cpl. Evan Broussard, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 airframe mechanic, works on an F/A-18 Hornet for the surge day at the air field here Jan. 12. Marines on the air field could be seen running to and from aircraft, some fueling and others providing maintenance, while even more Marines worked on communications to ensure the safety of the pilots and the aircraft during flight.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 pilots go over final checks in the cockpit of an F/A-18 Hornet for the surge day at the air field here Jan. 12. Scheduling for the surge day started with VMFA(AW)-242 operations Marines compiling the necessary data for each sortie; ensuring the needed pilots, the best times and required materials.

VMFA(AW)-242 test capabilities during surge day

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 conducted a surge day here Jan. 12 in order to test the combat readiness of the squadron. “A surge day tests the capability for our squadron to produce the amount of sorties we would be expected to in real life situations,” said Maj. Glenn D. Savage, VMFA(AW)-242 operations officer. “It gives us the ability to find the problem areas so at the end of the day, if something didn’t go as planned, we could figure out what went wrong, why it did and fix that for next time.” VMFA(AW)-242 was able to launch 28 sorties using eight F/A-18s in one day while running various combat scenarios. “The importance of a surge day is to test the squadron across the board,” said Savage. “Every section does its part, comes together in order to pull these days off as flawlessly as possible.” A surge is an aerial assault carried out on a specified target area. Surge days test the speed and endurance possible of a squadron if they carried out a surge. “I love this training,” said Savage. “It is what we’re here to do. We’re

here to train, and not only me, but the Marines down there who catch the jet, change the oil, fuel it up, fix any problems, turn it around and send it right back out to fly again. That is what we are doing today and that is what I love about doing this.” All of the sections give support during a surge. Every Marine has a specific job which is vital to completing the mission. “Getting to participate in the surge day is great,” said Cpl. Justin C. Brock, VMFA(AW)-242 operations noncommissioned officer in charge. “It feels like everyone in the squadron is working together and participating in a much bigger picture. You can feel your own personal importance.” Surge days are planned weeks in advance, with more details and information being gathered and verified as the day draws near. “We draft up the schedule as best we can and get air crew to look at it then they tell us who needs to go where,” said Brock. “We keep bouncing it back and forth until we get a finished product that gets passed up to the operations officer so it can get signed off.” Scheduling for the surge day started with VMFA(AW)-242 operations Marines compiling the necessary data for each sortie. “We

need to get the schedule out as soon as possible so everyone in the squadron is on the same page about how the surge day is going to go,” said Brock. Even once all paperwork is finalized, the aircraft still needed to be checked before and after every sortie, ensuring all maintenance is up-to-date. “It is our job to be ready,” said Sgt. Wayne S. Chase Jr., VMFA(AW)-242 maintenance controller. “That is the reason we are here. We are the tip of the spear. That is the point of being in Japan and being forward deployed, to be able to go anywhere at a moment’s notice.” Marines on the air field could be seen running to and from aircraft, some fueling and others providing maintenance, while even more Marines worked on communications to ensure the safety of the pilots and the aircraft during flight. “Those are the guys who make it happen,” said Chase. “Nothing is going to get done without their sweat out there on the line, without them working day in and day out. It’s up to me to organize the maintenance and to lead them, but they are the ones who get the job done.” VMFA(AW)-242 schedules surge days up to two times monthly.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
A Marine with Marine All-Weather Attack Fighter Attack Squadron 242 checks the cockpit of an F/A-18 Hornet for maintenance for the surge day at the air field here Jan. 12. Even once all paperwork is finalized, the aircraft still needs to be checked before and after every sortie, ensuring all maintenance is up-to-date.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 Marines perform final maintenance on an F/A-18 Hornet for the surge day at the air field here Jan. 12. A surge is an aerial assault carried out on a specified target area. Surge days test the possible speed and endurance of a squadron if they carried out a surge.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SHIR GHAZAY, Afghanistan — Two Marines from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), use metal detectors to sweep a hill during a route reconnaissance mission of Route Red, which extends from Highway 1 to Shir Ghazay, Jan. 1. The quick checks were conducted to calibrate detectors and ensure the area was clear of improvised explosive devices. The purpose of the mission was to document inclines and declines in the route, sharpness of curves, the shortest width during the route, and where culverts were located or needed to be placed on the route to prevent wash out.

Combat engineers perform route recon mission, pave way for road improvements in Afghanistan

CPL. MEREDITH BROWN
2ND MARINE LOGIS-
TICS GROUP

SHIR GHAZAY, Afghanistan — Two Marines carefully stepped out of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and extended their metal detectors to full length during a route reconnaissance mission on Route Red, Jan. 1-3. The quick checks were conducted to calibrate detectors and Marines began the meticulous sweeping process, ensuring the area was clear of improvised explosive devices.

After initial sweeps were made, Sgt. Mark Prado, the vehicle commander, stepped out of the MRAP and began his duties of taking photos and measurements of the area. The sweepers finished clearing the area and headed back to the armored vehicle, and Prado marked down the grid coordinates in order to catalog another section of Route Red. Combat engineers by trade, the Marines of 2nd Platoon, Alpha



SHIR GHAZAY, Afghanistan — A Marine from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), uses a metal detector to sweep a culvert during a route reconnaissance mission of Route Red, which extends from Highway 1 to Shir Ghazay, Jan. 2. Combat engineers by trade, the Marines of 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), are responsible for a host of duties that include providing security for other platoons in the battalion and conducting route reconnaissance missions like this recent task.

Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), are responsible for a host of duties that include providing security for other platoons in the battalion and conducting route reconnaissance missions like this recent task. Route Red is a main means of travel for local

residents and military personnel traveling from Highway 1 (the main highway in Afghanistan) north to Shir Ghazay. The purpose of the mission was to document inclines and declines in the route, sharpness of curves, the shortest width during the route, and where culverts were located or needed to be

placed on the route to prevent wash out. “The route has been an ongoing improvement since we took over from 7th ESB,” explained Sgt. Elliot Stamschror, the security element leader on the convoy. “We wanted to show progress on the route and note any things that need to be fixed or changed.”

During the mission, each time the convoy approached a curve, culvert, incline or decline, in addition to other facets, the Marines would post security for the recon vehicle, and the sweeping and documentation process was repeated.

In addition to the hands-on techniques used to annotate the route, the intelligence operations shop took a technological approach by mounting cameras on the MRAPs and other armored vehicles in the convoy. “We gathered a bunch of pictures and tied them to grid coordinates, so as you are driving down the route you’ll be able to view the pictures at the exact grid coordinates where they are located,” said Lance Cpl. Michael Ripley, an intelligence operations administration clerk. Overall, the mission was a success, said Stamschror. All aspects of the route were well documented. Now the reports will go to higher officials, and decisions about improving the route can be made with a full understanding of its current condition.

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 an 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 the children’s program. For more information, call Sarah Spencer at 253-2303 or visit www.facebook.com/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

Roman Catholic
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

Protestant
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

Church of Christ
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 week



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR. D.L. Hughley, standup comedian and entertainer, shares in a laugh with Lance Cpl. Dragos O. Carstea, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 flight equipment technician, as Carstea describes some of the equipment used by pilots during a meet-and-greet at the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar here Jan. 12. 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 13, 2011 7 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (PG-13)	Monday, January 16, 2011 4 p.m. Adventures of Tintin (PG)
Saturday, January 14, 2011 4 p.m. Adventures of Tintin (PG) 7 p.m. Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)	Tuesday, January 17, 2011 <i>Theater closed</i>
Sunday, January 15, 2011 4 p.m. The Muppets (PG) 7 p.m. The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo (R)	Wednesday, January 18, 2011 <i>Theater closed</i>
	Thursday, January 19, 2011 7 p.m. The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check 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 or call 253-5291.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Cream of broccoli soup, turkey pot pie, chicken vega, cajun baked fish, steamed rice, mashed sweet potatoes, cauliflower combo, collard greens, vegetable gravy, apple dressing, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, quick apple coffee cake, apple crunch, double layer marble cake with chocolate frosting, macadamian cookie, chocolate cream pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tuesday
Chicken gumbo soup, shrimp scampi, barbecue pork ribs, sweet and sour chicken, peas with onions, wax beans, steamed rice, oven browned potatoes, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, banana nut muffin, quick apple coffee cake, blueberry pie, double layer devil's food cake with chocolate frosting, peanut butter cookies, coconut cream pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday
Tomato soup, lasagna, roast pork, fried breaded shrimp, au gratin potatoes, steamed rice, corn, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, garlic bread, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, pecan rolls, cherry crunch, banana cake with chocolate frosting, sugar cookies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday
Minestrone soup, barbecued ribs, chicken in orange sauce, yakiniku, steamed rice, pork fried rice, vegetable stir fry, peas and carrots, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, blueberry muffins, aapple pie, double layer spice cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Friday
Cream of mushroom soup, baked tuna and noodles, salisbury steak, fried catfish, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, brussels sprouts, corn cream style, brown gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, quick French coffee cake, Boston cream pie, double layer carrot cake with buttercream frosting, oatmeal raisin cookies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Sales ban pulls popular supplement off shelf

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Department of Defense has implemented a temporary moratorium on the sales of products containing dimethylamylamine within military facilities. The moratorium will remain in effect pending further review of relevant scientific evidence and reported events, DoD officials said.

Recent reports show two soldier deaths and additional adverse health effects in other service members may be related to the use of dietary supplements containing DMAA. "We support the decision of

the Military Exchanges and Commissaries to remove products containing DMAA from their shelves until we can make a further determination about the safety of this ingredient," said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, deputy director of Force Health Protection and Readiness Programs with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness. DMAA is sold as a single supplement and in combination with multiple other ingredients. It is often combined with caffeine, a legal, natural stimulant. Stimulants may accelerate metabolism, heart rate and blood pressure, which may increase

the body's production of heat, especially in hot and humid conditions. "We are concerned about reports of heat illness, kidney (and) liver damage, and sudden death in service members who reportedly used products containing DMAA," Kilpatrick said. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, asked the surgeons general of the military services to conduct a review of available scientific evidence and reports to better understand any potential relationship between DMAA and these events. Recommendations from this review will guide further decisions, officials said.

"We take the health of our service members and families very seriously, and believe this action is necessary as a precautionary measure until we can learn more," said Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, Army surgeon general. This temporary ban should not alarm station service members who currently consume any supplements that contain DMAA as the move by the DoD is only being done as a precautionary measure to determine whether or not the chemical was in fact the cause of the aforementioned incidents said Terrence J. Riley, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron substance abuse control officer.

Station Chief Petty Officer submits winning safety poster submission

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron "back in the saddle" safety competition is scheduled to have its winning concept produced into a poster to be displayed around the station this month. The purpose of the competition was to give Marines and sailors within H&HS a chance to submit concepts about safely starting the new year. "It was definitely a good idea to get the Marines and sailors of the squadron involved in submitting their concepts on safety," said Sgt. Daniel K. Brown, H&HS combat camera staff noncommissioned officer in charge. "Someone else's idea of safety could be completely different than mine, so it helps having safety concepts sent in from as many people as possible." The winning concept was submitted by Chief Petty Officer Gerald A. Rawlins, H&HS facilities maintenance chief. Rawlins' idea, "safety 365," focuses on the concept of being dedicated to safety every day. "I want a safer station," said Rawlins. "When people see this poster it should stick that each day they need to be prepared." The competition focused on the "back in the saddle" concept in hopes of better preventing accidents both on and off station after the

extended time off most Marines and sailors have through the winter holidays. "Without proper safety, there is a greater chance of people getting injured," said Rawlins. "The point of having this poster up will be to remind everyone on station how important it is to keep safety in mind every day." The concept of the poster is to give those service members a chance to think in their own minds what safety is. "It shouldn't take some long speech to get the idea of safety into the minds of the Marines and sailors," said Rawlins. "When they see the poster for safety 365 and they think of the concept, they should be able to figure out their own ideas on safety." Concepts were submitted by September of last year to be prepared by the beginning of the coming year. The idea for the safety poster had to give the best overall representation of what safety should be to all Marines and sailors in order to have a chance in winning. "Safety doesn't just involve the basics we think about every day," said Brown. "It's more than physical protection and (operational security). Every situation has a different safety issue and every job has its own safety requirements." Concepts submitted were reviewed by the H&HS chain of command before the winner was chosen.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

The Winning idea for the back in the saddle safety contest, submitted by Chief Gerald A. Rawlins, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron facilities maintenance chief, is planned to be displayed around the station.

CLUB IWAKUNI BALLROOM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 AM / KICKOFF STARTS AT 8:15 AM

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