

Celebration

Station Residents gather to celebrate and remember MLK's dream | P. 4



KANJI ADVENTURES

Learn Japanese one paper at a time | P. 10



TIME TRAVEL

Swap for the post you want
Torii Teller rises from archives | P. 12

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 3 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

R. G. Robinson Mess Hall, seen here, is scheduled to reopen its doors, starting Feb. 1. The mess hall shut down for renovations Dec. 26, 2010, requiring patrons to attend the northside Mess Hall for evening meals during Mondays through Fridays and all meals on the weekends. Some of the renovations which took place included a larger seating area, increasing the overall capacity of the dining facility from 250 to 350.

Typhoon Motors ensures station residents' safety

Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Auto Skills Center hosted a snow chain instruction and safety class, which taught station residents how to properly put snow chains on their vehicle's tires here Jan. 18.

The Auto Skills Center, located across from the north side seven day store, is a place where station residents can clean or fix their vehicles.

During winter, snow chains serve an important role in saving lives and preventing vehicle damage.

Snow chains are used when roads are icy or snow-covered to keep vehicles from losing traction and sliding out of control.

"In a lot of places in Japan

SEE CHAINS ON PAGE 3

South side station gears up to get mess hall back

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The R. G. Robinson Mess Hall, located on the south side of the base, is scheduled to reopen its doors to service members starting Feb. 1.

The mess hall was temporarily shut down Dec. 26, 2010 to make various improvements to the building's interior and exterior.

"These buildings are made to last about 50 years,"

said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Russell A. Johnson, station food service officer. "(The mess hall) never really went through many renovations. It was starting to show its age. It needed a new paint job."

Some improvements which have been made include moving lavatories to the mess deck. Restrooms are now located at the front of the mess hall.

SEE MESS ON PAGE 3

Starting a new year off safe; BITS training

Pfc. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 conducted a Back In The Saddle training brief at the Sakura Theater here Jan. 19 to remind Marines and sailors of daily safety precautions.

After Marines and sailors took their seats in the theater, opening comments were made by Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, H&HS commanding officer, and

Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, H&HS sergeant major.

"Hopefully every Marine leaves here asking the right questions," said Coletta. "What am I doing in work and off-duty? What is the chance something will go wrong and have I taken the proper steps in order to mitigate that risk? If we can get everyone to evaluate what they do on and off duty, then I'd say we succeeded."


Presenters, aided by power point slides, talked to Marines and sailors about topics concerning the safety of station

residents and dangers of going off station.

"Effectively getting this information out is something we strive to do," said Coletta. "We have to keep putting that message out there for it to sink in. You can't just talk about this once a year and forget about it. This is something that needs to be brought up in individual shops on a regular basis for personnel rotating in and out of here."

After learning about traffic

SEE SADDLE ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Life is a gift’

Lt. Flugencio L. Legaspi
H&HS CHAPLAIN

The holiday season is over, and we have to bear in mind that one year has passed and we are now facing another year.

Let’s thank God for our lives. Sometimes we take it for granted until danger threatens it.

Afterward, we realize it has great value. Let’s thank God too, for all the blessings, whether big or small.

Let us also include the failures in life, because they can be stepping stones to success.

Let’s reflect where we have failed in the past and resolve to do better this coming year.

One of God’s greatest favors is that he gives us the chance to make a fresh start. Making a fresh start can mean making a firm resolution to change.

For this new year I would like to give you this story:

There was a blind girl who hated

herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend, who was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, “If I could only see the world, I would marry you.”

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend.

He asked her, “Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?”

The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw he was blind.

The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her which read, “Take good care of your eyes, for before they were yours, they were mine.”

This is how the human brain often works when our status changes.

Only a very few remember what life was like before and who was always by their side in their most painful situations.

The following paragraphs are food for thought.

Today before you say an unkind word, think of someone who can’t speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food, think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife, think of someone who’s crying out to God for a companion.

Today before you complain about life, think of someone who died too early on this earth.

Before whining about the distance you drive, think of someone who walks the same distance.

When you are tired and complain about your job, think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job.

Before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another, remember not one of us is without sin.

When depressing thoughts seem to get you down, put a smile on your face and think: you’re alive and still around.

Needed tax information

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. 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.

- Proof of a valid Social Security Number/ITIN Numbers for the both the tax filer and all dependants claimed on this year’s tax return
- W-2 (wage and tax statement)
- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks earned on savings or checking accounts)
- Child care expenses
- Records reflecting spousal or child support payments
- Mortgage interest statement
- Individual retirement account (IRA) contributions
- Dividends, interest, and capital gains and losses from the sale of stocks, bonds or property
- Charitable contribution records

Iwakuni Roadrunners

All service members and civilians are welcome. Meet in front of the Crossroads Mall
Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For more information visit our Facebook page at
"Iwakuni Roadrunners."

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.

BITS of information on safety, H&HS, MWSS-171 take training

SADDLE FROM PAGE 1

safety and vehicle regulations for Japan, Terrence J. Riley, H&HS substance abuse counseling officer, briefed Marines and sailors about the consequences of alcohol abuse.

“If we start out making responsible decisions, that’s going to follow us through our career, but the same can be said for if we start out making irresponsible decisions,” said Riley.

“I tried to incorporate everything that could happen to a person because of alcohol abuse.”

While every presenter focused on a certain subject, the common theme was preparing Marines and sailors to be able to think about their own choices.

“As long as I got their attention and they walk away thinking about something they weren’t thinking about before, then I consider that mission accomplished,” said Riley.

The audience applauded after every presenter, and service members were given the chance to participate in presentations.

“These briefs are important for unit cohesion so

all the Marines understand the importance of SACO and everything else going on within the station,” said Pfc. Justin Coverdale, Provost Marshal’s Office correction specialist. “Everyone who spoke did exceptionally well today, and I hope all the Marines take home as much as I am.”

The briefs gave both H&HS and MWSS-171 the opportunity to have all their Marines and sailors in one location so recent policy changes and information about the coming year could be shared in an efficient way.

CHAINS FROM PAGE 1

during the winter, if you don’t have snow chains either with you or on your tires, you’ll get pulled over,” said Patrick D. McDonnell, Auto Skills Center recreation attendant. “We make sure station residents are safe year-round and won’t get unnecessary tickets.”

Classes are held and regulations have been set to ensure driver safety and vehicle passengers during heavy snowfall or extremely icy conditions.

Station residents who enjoy snowboarding, skiing and other winter activities often use the Typhoon Motors Car Rental located next door to the Auto Skills Center to drive to the mountains during the winter holidays.

Typhoon Motors Car Rental’s 48 cars have their own set of snow chains, and the Typhoon Motors Car Rental associates ensure the station residents know how to put the snow chains on the tires even if the renter has taken the class given by the Auto Skills Center.

“Every four-day-weekend and holiday all of our cars get rented,” said Jocilina Sindec, Typhoon Motors Car Rental operations assistant. “Forty eight extra vehicles on the road during dangerous conditions could mean possible accidents. We do our best to help station residents stay safe on the road, but it is really up to the driver to maintain their personal safety, the safety of the passengers and the vehicle.”

Whoever puts the snow chains on the tires must make sure they are properly secured or else it could create a dangerous situation.

Snow chains could cause damage to the car if put on improperly.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Patrick D. McDonnell, Auto Skills Center recreation attendant, demonstrates how to put a snow chain on a tire here Jan. 18. The Auto Skills Center holds the snow chain instruction and safety class every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. and is a place where station residents can go to clean or fix their vehicles. During winter, snow chains serve an important role in saving lives and preventing vehicle damage.

The undercarriage and tire could be damaged if the snow chain came undone while driving.

“Not only can snow chains cause damage to the body of the car but the handling too,” said Juan Velazquez, Auto Skills Center manager.

“If you lose control of your vehicle on those slick roads in the mountains, then you could be in serious trouble.”

The Auto Skills Center holds the snow chain instruction and safety class every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m.

MESS FROM PAGE 1

Previously they were located in an area that required patrons to travel through the galley area, causing a safety and sanitation concern.

Spacing was another matter which was improved in the remodeling of the Mess Hall. Dining seating was previously divided into different sections according to ranks, e.g., noncommissioned officer and officer eating sections.

“We had these separate little eating sections that chopped up the space in here,” said Johnson. “With that setup, we were able to only seat 240 to 250 people. We can actually seat 330 people comfortably now. We aren’t even pressed for space.”

When the previous iteration of the mess hall closed December 2010, it was met with some apprehension as service members who lived on the south side of the station had to figure out how to adjust their eating schedules and habits.

An initial solution was the designation of a Mess Hall only shuttle which ran in the evenings, Sundays through Saturdays.

Unfortunately, service members who wished for the convenience of eating in the mornings on the weekends and over holidays found themselves at the mercy of the regular shuttle, which has a considerably longer route and return time.

“At first it was good, we had a shuttle that went specifically to the northside Mess Hall but if you missed it, you had to wait,” said Lance Cpl. Michael E. Hicks, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Installation Personnel Administration Center clerk. “It was inconvenient for service members to schedule everything around the bus to go to the northside Mess Hall.”

The closing of the southside Mess Hall also hit service members in their wallets.

The reasonable walking distance of the Crossroads Mall, coupled with the possibility of missing the shuttle to the northside Mess Hall often had a powerful influence on service members’ wallets and purses.

“Money is always a factor,” said Hicks. “It’s really just the inconvenience of asking ‘Do I really want to wake up this early?’ or ‘Is the bus going to be there?’ If you’re not in sync with the shuttle schedule, you’re just going to go to Crossroads. You’re going to pay for food from the Crossroads versus waiting for the shuttle.”

Some service members shared the sentiment of the bus schedule coming into direct conflict with their work responsibilities.

“I went to Crossroads every day,” said Lance Cpl. Kouassi J. Koffi, a Marine Aircraft Group 12 administrative specialist. “I don’t get off of work early enough some days to make it to either Mess Hall. The weekends are sometimes harder.”

The inconvenience of the shuttle, the difficulty of getting to the shuttle and the extra money service members who have meal cards spend at Crossroads was not something that was lost on Johnson and other leaders.

“Col. Stewart generously found money for us to renovate the temporary Mess Hall,” said Johnson. “Nobody likes to have anything closed and have to adjust their life to it. The fact of the matter is, by closing, they’re now getting something 10 times better than what they had, not just in ambience, but what we’re able to do to support the mission.”

The Mess Hall is scheduled to be open from 5:30-8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

“In some form or another, whether the snack line, main line or specialty bar, it will be open throughout that time,” said Johnson.

With the Mess Hall’s reopening finally on the horizon, service members can rest easy knowing their diet and food habits will once again be flexible.

Stand strong, stand proud, stand tall

Military personnel, civilians remember Martin Luther King Jr.

Pfc. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents celebrated the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a ceremony held in the Club Iwakuni dining room here Jan. 13.

The ceremony began at 11 a.m. in the Club Iwakuni ballroom where the lunch served consisted of traditional soul food such as chicken with waffles and gumbo shrimp.

Speakers for the event could be seen practicing their lines behind the podium before the event began.

"I think it's important to recognize history, period," said Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 sergeant major. "That's what we're doing today. King is an eminent and integral part of history as far as the improvements in racial equality, not just in the states, but internationally."

Station residents listened to speakers such as Calvin express the importance of King's efforts on equality.

"It's important to take this time to give homage and pay respect to the contributions King made," said Calvin. "He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. As service members, we can understand what that would be like."

After Calvin's speech, Cpl. Dyrolyn Allen, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aviation supply specialist, performed a tribute of the poem, "Stand Tall".

"I hope people take away that while we are here celebrating Dr. King and his dream, his dream lives on," said Andre L. Boyer, University of Phoenix full time faculty and retired Marine. "His dream has been fulfilled and continues to be fulfilled. We can't forget about everyone who has contributed to that. We have made a lot of progress because of his dream, now we need to continue on."

Boyer spoke to those attending about the life of King's mother and others that who King personally.

"I'm humbled to be a guest speaker and to honor Dr. King and his legacy," said Boyer. "I think the world owes a debt of gratitude to him. For me to be able to give a few words to commemorate him is a humbling experience."

After his speech and presentation, Boyer was presented a plaque by Petty Officer 1st Class Philip J. Vogtman, H&HS harbor operations division harbor master.

"It's an honor and a pleasure to be a part of something of this nature," said Vogtman. "Especially since Dr. King had such a profound influence on the country."

Posters of King, along with some of his famous quotes, were placed throughout the room, each poster dedicated to the influence of one man and his dream that lives on through commemoration tributes such as this event.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Dr. Andre L. Boyer, University of Phoenix full time faculty, prays with other station residents who attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration tribute, which took place in the Club Iwakuni dining room here Jan. 13. Posters of King, along with some of his famous quotes, were placed throughout the room, each poster dedicated to the influence of one man and his dream that lives on today through commemoration tributes such as this event.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 sergeant major, performs the opening remarks during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration tribute which took place in the Club Iwakuni dining room here Jan. 13. Speakers could be seen practicing their lines before the other residents arrived. Calvin talked about the importance of King's dedication to equality during his life as well as the lasting effect that he had on the world.

D.L. Hughley arrives, brings comedy, laughter to station residents

Cpl. Kenneth K.
Trotter Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Laughs filled the room when renowned comedian D.L. Hughley stole the show as part of the "2012 Laugh Campaign" at the Iwakuni Ballroom here Jan. 12.

Hughley is star of the former hit sitcom "The Hughleys," the hit movie, "The Original Kings of Comedy" and former host of Black Entertainment Television's comedy show "ComicView."

To get the crowd hyped for the entertainer, fellow comedian Daniel Dugar set the tone for those attending, offering his own brand and take on everyday life to the crowd before the headline act came out.

Hughley was treated to a thunderous round of applause as he took the stage. The fervor of the crowd was a welcome sight to him.

"I've had a wonderful time," said Hughley. "I've been to a lot of bases before, generally Army and Air Force, but Marine bases are the best. It's amazing to see so many young cats who are professional in what they do and how appreciative they are to anybody who comes and invests time in them."

Hughley joked about the location of the station in comparison to other bases he has visited on his numerous tours.

"Y'all are far, I'll give you that," said Hughley. "I've never been anywhere this remote. Y'all ain't got (nothing) out here. I asked what there was to do around here, and they said we can go get sushi off base!"

Hughley's style of gut-busting humor hit home with many in attendance; the laughs never ceased during the night.

No topic was safe from the sharp-witted and quick-on-the-draw Hughley as he discussed relationships, marital woes, racial issues and even the military ranks in his act.

He called out several individuals on their respective jobs within the service, even going so far as to tell one individual who couldn't answer what he actually did that he must be an "officer."

Hughley said he feels service members got a kick out of his show, because much of his material is relatable to anyone, regardless of whether they are in the military or civilians.

"I think Marines like real (stuff), and they appreciate the material," said Hughley.

Those who found themselves in the front row during the show were treated to Hughley's distinctive style of humor as he called out Marines.

One Marine who found himself on the receiving end of a string of jokes was Sgt. Roderick R. Beachum, station air terminal noncommissioned officer in charge, who took the verbal jests in stride and was appreciative of the opportunity to see Hughley perform live.

"It was amazing," said Beachum. "There were a lot of laughs and group participation. I had a good time. It was just like one of his standup acts."

Several in attendance also hoped Hughley would be the first of many comedians who Marine Corps Community Services would be able to bring to the station to perform events such as this.

"I think service members would like to see Marine Corps Community Services get other big name comedians to come here and spread the love, like Cedric the Entertainer, Kevin Hart or Katt Williams," said Beachum. "I don't think they'll get Katt Williams to come here, though. He's a little too x-rated!"

Others shared the hope that seeing more famous comedians would grace the station; as events such as this do not happen very often.

"We don't get as many opportunities to see things like this," said Christiana M. Sanders, Headquarters and Headquarters squadron commanding officer's secretary. "We need to capitalize on (these events.) When you're in the states, you have to pay out of pocket and try to find good seats."

One comedian in particular who Sander hopes MCCS is able to get is Kevin Hart.

Sanders said the turnout of on-base residents to see Hart perform live on the station would possibly necessitate the need for the even to be moved from the ballroom to the Iwakuni golf course.

"Kevin Hart definitely needs to come here," said Sanders.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Comedian and entertainer, D. L. Hughley, star of such hits as the television shows "The Hughleys," "The Original Kings of Comedy," and former host of Black Entertainment Television's "ComicView," works his way through the crowd at the Iwakuni Ballroom here Jan. 12 during the "2012 Laugh Campaign." Hughley's sharp wit touched on a variety of topics including marriage and childrearing.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

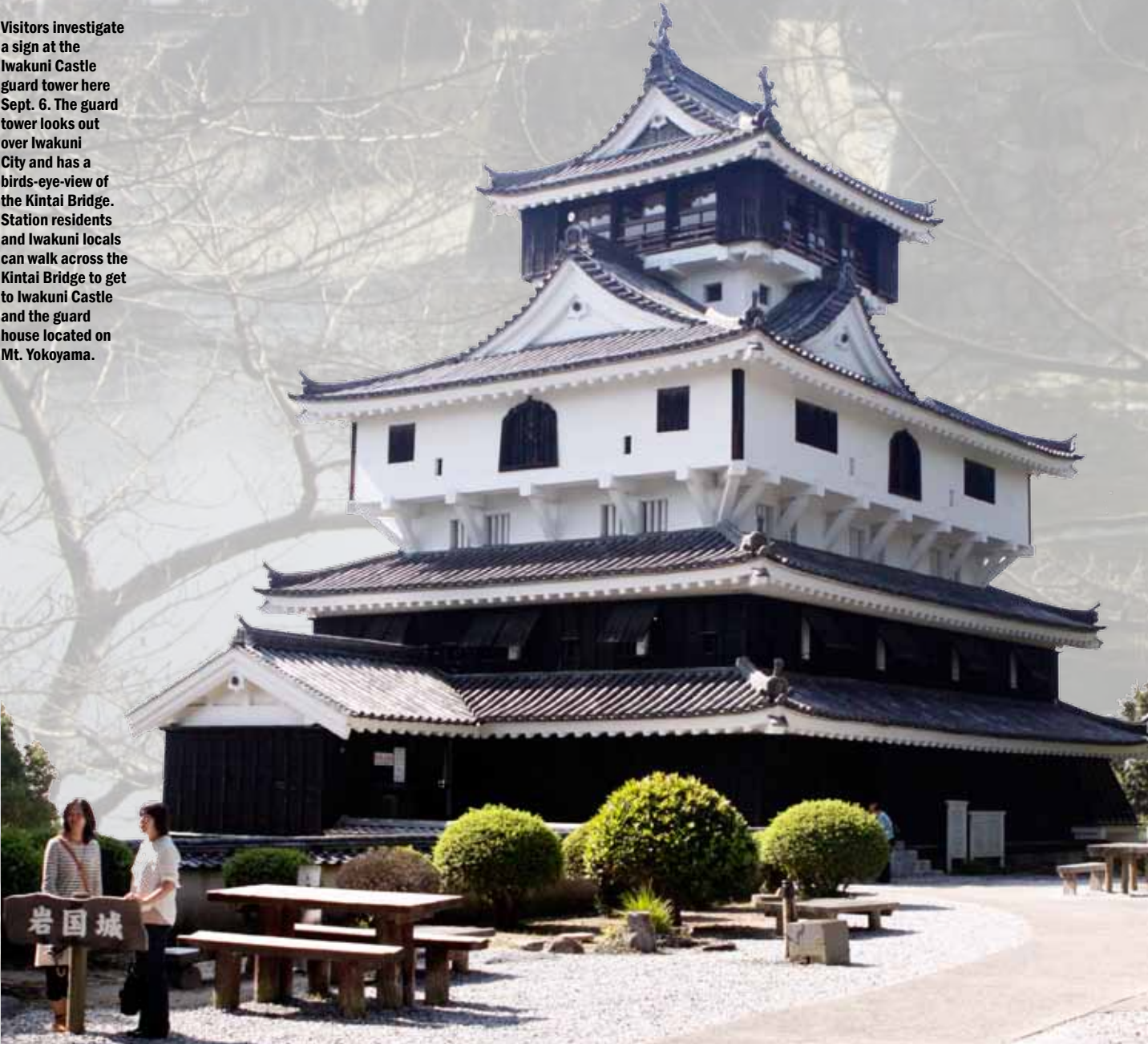
Comedian and entertainer, Daniel Dugar, entertains the crowd at the Iwakuni Ballroom here Jan. 12 during the "2012 Laugh Campaign." Dugar opened for fellow comedian, D. L. Hughley. Both comedians brought their own distinctive style of raucous humor to the crowd. No individual was safe from the verbal jabs that came from the comedians as they picked out people in the crowd.

Forever will it stand; History of Iwakuni's Kintai Bridge



Visitors walk across the Kintai Bridge in Iwakuni, Jan. 14. The Kintai Bridge, Iwakuni's most iconic symbol, gives all those willing to pay a small fee the chance to walk across its ancient design. The original bridge was finished Oct. 1, 1673. The bridge that was reconstructed in 1953 undergoes repair on regular intervals to maintain the integrity of the bridge.

Visitors investigate a sign at the Iwakuni Castle guard tower here Sept. 6. The guard tower looks out over Iwakuni City and has a birds-eye-view of the Kintai Bridge. Station residents and Iwakuni locals can walk across the Kintai Bridge to get to Iwakuni Castle and the guard house located on Mt. Yokoyama.



Wooden arch bridge Iwakuni's 400 year-old treasure

Story and photos by
Pfc. Benjamin Pryer
& Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Kintai Bridge, Iwakuni's most prominent and symbolic structure, begins its tale over 410 years ago. The Mori Clan's Kikkawa family founded Iwakuni and was responsible for constructing the Kintai Bridge. Hiroie Kikkawa, Iwakuni's first lord, was given the land of Iwakuni to rule after the Battle of Sekigahara in the year 1600. In 1603, Hiroie built Iwakuni Castle upon Mt. Yokoyama in an attempt to create an easily defendable operating base. The castle took approximately five years to build, yet only stood for seven. Hiroie was forced to dismantle the castle after the Tokugawa Shogunate passed a law saying only one castle per province was allowed.

The castle standing today is a reproduction, which was built in 1962. Hiroie next constructed housing at the foot of Mount Yokoyama and provided it to his high ranking officials and samurai. As the town flourished, its borders expanded past the Nishiki River.

Hiroie decided to build a bridge to connect both sides of the river, easing the trip for mid-to-low ranking officials. The sandy riverbed of the Nishiki River destroyed every bridge Hiroie built. A lasting bridge wasn't built until Hiroyoshi Kikkawa, the third lord of Iwakuni, came into power.

One legend says the Kintai Bridge's design came to Hiroyoshi as he cooked rice cakes and noticed how the cakes arched up while baking.

While contemplating the rice cakes, Hiroyoshi became ill and bedridden. A Buddhist monk named Dokuryu treated Hiroyoshi's illness.

One day, while Dokuryu was treating Hiroyoshi, he showed him a book from Xihu, his hometown in Hangzhou, China.

Flipping through the pages, Hiroyoshi came across an illustration of the area called Sokoutei, which translates to brocade sash.

The illustration showed a chain of islands connected by stone arch bridges, which all together resembled a brocade sash.

Hiroyoshi pounded his table with excitement as he formulated an idea for the bridge he wished to build. Using five small stone islands built in the middle of the Nishiki River and connected with five wooden arched bridges, Hiroyoshi built what would be known as the Kintai Bridge.

The bridge was finished Oct. 1, 1673 and has since shown to be of great importance to Iwakuni's local community.

When Typhoon Kijia hit Iwakuni Sept. 14, 1950, the bridge's importance to the community was proven. Locals chanted, "Save the bridge," as they fought to save their bridge against the elements. The bridge was destroyed despite their valiant efforts.

Reconstruction of the bridge began in 1951 and was finished in 1953.

Through the years, the Kintai bridge has remained the iconic symbol of Iwakuni and a bastion of pride for the local community.

Editor's note: References used for this article include the documentary The History of The Iwakuni Domain and Kintai Bridge.

Kintai facts

- The original Kintai Bridge was built in 1673.
- The word Kintai translates to "brocade sash," representing the shape of the bridge.
- The Kintai Bridge consists of five wooden arches, as well as a wooden pier on each side of the riverbed.
- The Kintai Bridge was inspired by Chinese construction.
- The Kintai Bridge measures 210 meters long and five meters wide.
- The Kikkawa family of the Mori Clan was responsible for founding Iwakuni and building the Kintai Bridge.
- Hiroie Kikkawa originally attempted to build a bridge where the Kintai Bridge stands for his mid-to-low ranking officials.
- Hiroyoshi came up with the idea of the Kintai Bridge one day while cooking rice cakes.
- A Buddhist monk named Dokuryu showed Hiroyoshi a book from his hometown, which depicted a chain of islands connected by stone arch bridges.
- The Kintai Bridge spans Iwakuni's Nishiki River.
- The supports for the Kintai Bridge stand on small islands built in the middle of the Nishiki River.
- Kikkou Park, which includes Iwakuni Castle and the Kintai Bridge, was designated as a national treasure in 1922.
- Typhoon Kijia hit Iwakuni Sept. 14, 1950, destroying the Kintai Bridge in the process.
- Reconstruction for the Kintai Bridge began in 1951 and was completed in 1953.
- The current Kintai Bridge is the third to be built.
- Sheets of copper were laid over the main wooden sections of the bridge after it was built.
- The Kintai Bridge is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Japan.
- The renovation of the Kintai Bridge was completed March, 20, 2004.
- The Kintai Bridge Festival is held on the fourth Sunday of April each year.
- No nails or bolts have been used to build the arches, just clamps and wires.



A view of the Kintai Bridge from the Iwakuni Castle. When Typhoon Kijia hit Iwakuni Sept. 14, 1950, the original bridge was destroyed. Reconstruction of the bridge began in 1951 and was finished in 1953. Through the years, the Kintai Bridge has remained the iconic symbol of Iwakuni and a bastion of pride for the local community.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan — A Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey flies in the sky above Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 17. This was the last mission flown during Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162's six month deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 has been deployed at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan for more than six months.

Mission accomplished: Marine Osprey squadron flies last mission of Afghanistan deployment



CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan — Marines with 1st Battalion, 8th Marines Regiment unload from MV-22B Osprey in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 17. This was the last mission flown during Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162's six month deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The squadron's final mission in Afghanistan was to transport Marines with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment to a small patrol base in Helmand province, who will relieve Marines of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. The Osprey has the ability to takeoff vertically like a helicopter and then tilt its rotors forward granting speed and maneuverability.

Cpl. Justin M. Boling
2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT
WING (FWD)

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan—A Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey squadron flew its final combat mission, Jan. 17 to complete its deployment to Afghanistan. Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 has been deployed at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan for more than six months. The Marines will soon return to Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. The squadron's final mission in Afghanistan was to transport Marines with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment to a small patrol base in Helmand province, who will relieve Marines of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. "These Marines are extremely proficient and helpful to us 'ground pounders,'" said Staff Sgt. Ricky Lara, a platoon sergeant with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. "My guys have a lot to worry about once we get on the ground, but in the air we know we are in the good hands of our fellow Marines." Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 flies the MV-22B Osprey. The Osprey has the ability to takeoff vertically like a helicopter and then tilt

its rotors forward granting speed and maneuverability comparable to a traditional airplane. The Marine Corps relies on the versatile Osprey for various missions in Afghanistan including troop and cargo transport, battlefield illumination, aerial resupply and assault insert of combat troops. Marine Corps Ospreys are deployed as part of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), the aviation combat element for the southwestern regional command of the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Marines of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 are preparing to return to friends and family in the United States, and MV-22B Osprey support in southwestern Afghanistan will now come from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, also deployed from Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. "The one word to describe the feeling we have is satisfied," said Capt. Creighton Murrieta, an MV-22B Osprey pilot with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162. "We have moved so many people and so much equipment, and we are just excited to go home and spend time with our friends and loved ones."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Free Child Development Screening
Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will be holding a free child development screening event for children 4 - 60 months on Feb. 29 and March 1 at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School. Child specialists will answer questions and screen 5 major areas of child development. For more information please schedule an appointment with EDIS at 253-4562.

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.

PMO Lost and Found
Contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you've lost anything around the station. Examples may include cell phones, keys, digital cameras, bicycle helmets, jewelry, glasses, debit/credit cards and more. For more information, to report lost items or to claim lost items, call 253-4929.

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/IwakuniMOPS.

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.

Thrift Store Volunteer Positions
Volunteer positions available. Applicants should be outgoing, willing to have fun and highly motivated. We are also looking for a board member treasurer with book keeping experience. Board members and store volunteers must attend all store meetings. All positions are non-compensated positions. For more information call Patty or Sharon at 253-4711 or e-mail thrift_store@yahoo.com.

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 simplify 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.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Kanji Adventures

This week's Kanji Adventures will expand your Japanese restaurant knowledge. Have your own Kanji Adventures idea to submit? Submit ideas 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.



Symbol of the week

(Left) The first two kanji mean, 'set meals are available at this restaurant'.

It is pronounced: *tei shoku*

The second two kanji mean, 'one rice bowl meal'.

It is pronounced: *don buri mono*

This kanji is frequently found outside of restaurants.

Helpful phrases

I would like that.

Pronounced: *Sore o kudasai.*

Do you have an English menu?

Pronounced: *Eigo no menyū wa ari masu ka?*

What do you recommend?

Pronounced: *Nanji ga osusume desu ka?*

Vowel pronunciation

The letter "a" represents a sound like the "a" in "father."
The letter "e" represents a sound like the "e" in "pet."
The letter "i" represents a sound like the American "ee" in "feet."
The letter "o" represents a sound like the initial portion of the American "o" in "so."
The letter "u" represents a sound like the "oo" in "fool."

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, January 20, 2011
7 p.m. Jack and Jill (PG)
10 p.m. Immortals (R)
Saturday, January 21, 2011
4 p.m. We Bought a Zoo (PG)
7 p.m. Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)

Sunday, January 22, 2011
4 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G)
7 p.m. War Horse (PG-13)

Monday, January 23, 2011
7 p.m. The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo (R)
Tuesday, January 24, 2011
Theater closed

Wednesday, January 25, 2011
Theater closed

Thursday, January 26, 2011
7 p.m. War Horse (PG-13)

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.

They've got an app for that: iHoops smash 3 At Last

Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

iHoops beat out 3 At Last 41-35 during a basketball preseason tournament at the IronWorks Gym Sports Court here January 16.

3 At Last took control of the ball at the start of the championship game. 3 At Last's offense managed to shake through iHoops' defense to get an early 7-0 lead.

Byron D. Johnson, iHoops forward, put his team on the board with a 3-pointer. Johnson's shot seemed to invigorate his teammates to step up their game because with 14:45 left in the half iHoops took the lead 12-9.

The iHoops defense wouldn't let 3 At Last players get a shot off and kept stealing the ball. Halfway through the first half, iHoops furthered their lead 19-11.

iHoops kept 3 At Last players running back and forth, which seemed to break 3 At Last's strategy, because they could not maintain possession.

With two minutes left in the first half, iHoops offense was able to gain an eight point lead when Johan L. Rojas, iHoops center, made a layup, which brought the score to 21-13.

Before the buzzer sounded for halftime, iHoops players made two more layups ending the first half 25-13.

Both teams were able to sink a

few buckets within the first four minutes of the second half, which brought the score to 29-17.

Both teams brought the heat with aggressive offense. iHoops continued to control the court with a 13 point lead halfway through the second half 35-22.

The ball changed hands several times the rest of the game.

Players on both teams were fouled and sunk their foul shots. Johnson was fouled twice with five minutes left.

He made all four of his buckets, bringing the score to 40-29.

3 At Last made three more layups before Steve Navar, iHoops forward, was fouled and sank his shot, which brought the score to 41-35.

With 10 seconds left, iHoops controlled the ball as time ran out to get the win.

"iHoops executed when they needed to," said Rajiv M. Douglas, 3 At Last point guard. "We're coming back when the season starts and showing them who is boss."

Eight teams competed in the tournament. Intramural sports regulations make each half 20 minutes.

"We want to build camaraderie with the service members and other station residents," said Jason D. Knight, intramural sports specialist. "The teams came out in force and gave it their all."

The intramural basketball season is scheduled to start January 28.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Dominique Artagos, iHoops point guard, attempts to shoot a foul shot during the championship game of a preseason intramural basketball tournament at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts here January 16. Eight teams competed in the tournament. Intramural sports regulations make each half 20 minutes.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Steve Navar, iHoops forward, shoots a jump shot during the championship game of a preseason intramural basketball tournament at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts here January 16. Navar sunk a foul shot in the remaining seconds of the second half to end the game with a 41-35 win.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Byron D. Johnson, iHoops forward, attempts to get through 3 At Last's defense during the championship game of a preseason intramural basketball tournament at the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts here January 16. The intramural basketball season is scheduled to start January 28.

The Iwakuni time machine

This week in 1972 the Torii Teller reported on the Iwakuni Flying club. Other news included in this issue was the activation of Marine Attack Squadron 542 at Beaufort, S.C., changes in the Revenue Act of 1971, and the opening of a tape room facility. The tape room facility had three enclosed letter-taping rooms for the benefit of station residents to send voice letters home.

"Discover flying" with Iwakuni Flying Club

The wild blue yonder over MCAS Iwakuni beckons more than just military pilots and an occasional sea gull.

Servicemen, their families and American civilians working here, as members of the Iwakuni Flying Club, daily live up to the club's motto - "Discover Flying."

The Headquarters Marine Corps-approved, Secretary of the Navy-sanctioned organization is dedicated to obtaining licenses for its 60 members.

Two 1969 model Cessna 150s are maintained under lease from a civilian concern.

Lt(jg). Dick Wales, NASU weapons officer and president of the club, says, "We are definitely expanding. Each month, an average of five new members join. We are currently trying to get a three-year, no-interest loan from the Marine Corps to purchase the two planes we have, and a Cessna 172 four seater."

The would-be flyers meet the first Monday of each month, in the rear of Building 201. They also maintain an office with volunteers in the MCAS Operations Building.

The club has \$15 per month dues, of which \$10 is guaranteed flight time (one hour). Aircraft rental fees, including fuel and maintenance, are \$10 per hour. FAA regulations require 40 hours of flight time before a flight

Story by: Sgt. Cary Salter
Photos by: Sgt. John Ames



Planning the route is part of the routine club members face before each flight.

inspection may be administered for a private pilot's rating.

The club does not offer a ground school, but does sponsor one held in MCAS Headquarters, Building 360.

Membership in the club includes eight commercial ratings, 12 private, and the remainder students. Of these, four are instructors for the students studying for a private rating.

At present, the written test must be taken at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo with a flight inspection at Atsugi. A tour is made by flight inspectors from the regional FAA office in Hawaii every three months, and plans are being made to have Iwakuni put on that circuit.

A medical examination is required, and the certificate, often called an "up chit," serves as a student's license. The MCAS Medical Department performs the exam.

A major benefit of obtaining a license at Iwakuni is sight-seeing. Under the Status of Forces Agreement between the U. S. and Japan, landing and parking fees are free at private fields.

Another benefit for anyone planning a career in commercial flying after separation from active duty, is the low expense. Under the G. I. Bill, pilots must have a private rating before obtaining assistance for commercial ratings. Then, the individual is required to pay approximately 10 per cent of the costs for higher ratings.



Lt(jg) Wales holds a pre-flight inspection on one of the Club's Cessna 150s as he prepares for a flight.